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Volume 71, Issue 20 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Otsego held its annual Veterans Day ceremony at Memorial Park, with City Manager Aaron Mitchell honoring Josh Jepkema. (Photos provided)

Mitchell honors Jepkema with Veterans Day speech

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, major hostilities of World War 1 were formally ended.

Since then, Nov. 11 has been set aside to honor military veterans, first known as Armistice Day before, in 1954, being renamed Veterans Day.

And on Tuesday, Nov. 11, many local residents joined thousands throughout the nation in pausing to honor those who have served our country in the armed forces.

Ceremonies were held at the Greater Plainwell Veterans Memorial in Plainwell's Sherwood Park as well as at Memorial Park in Otsego.

At the ceremony in Otsego, City Manager Aaron Mitchell "had the honor" to be the guest speaker.

Here is a copy of the speech he shared, honoring veteran Josh "Jeep" Jepkema, who recently passed away:

"Good morning. Happy Veterans Day to everyone and thank you veterans for your service.

"I am usually reluctant to speak at Veteran's Day services. One of the few places that I am hesitant to speak, ever. If you don't believe me, just ask the Mayor.

"My reluctance to speak is certainly not out of a lack of respect, it is out of a lack of appropriateness in my mind. This day is about you veterans and no one else. You have lived a life of sacrifice and most definitely should not have to sacrifice this day as well for a simple civilian.

"However, I feel like this year is different. Sadly, you have recently lost one of your brothers. A true loss in all aspects of the word.

"The shocking loss of Jeep is felt throughout the community in so many ways. I am honored to speak today on the community's behalf of the impact that he made. I cannot speak to Jeep's time in service overseas or his leadership that many of you got to see. But what I can speak on is what I saw here in Otsego; which was a veteran serving his community.

"Josh Jepkema (Jeep) in recent years took over the reins as the Commander of the VFW Post. From my understanding this role was 'a little outside of his comfort zone.' As I worked with Jeep on permits and requests for events, I found him to have an open mind, a willingness to learn from others and serve his fellow veterans and community.

"That is what I saw and I am certain that those are the very same traits that made him an excellent soldier, commander and friend. Under his leadership, I among other civilians have noticed the VFW Post 3030 thrive in serving the Otsego community.

"One of the last conversations I had with Jeep was about the VFW and the City of Otsego partnering going forward. It was a conversation that I am guessing is rather similar to conversations others have had with Jeep at some point.

"Started out a 'little heated' based on frustrations with misunderstandings until we were both able to get all of the details out. But ended in a great spot of optimism for the future with our partnership being needed to reach our shared goals.

"That was possible because Jeep was able to listen to others; a trait that is hard to find in today's world.

"That conversation was centered on some great opportunities for the Memorial Day Parade going forward. A partnership that would allow for the City to assist in the organization of the parade while the VFW was able to continue to control all aspects of the parade and keep the long-standing traditions. A real win-win situation.

"I hope those plans can still go forward and the City looks forward to discussing that with the VFW leadership in the coming months.

"While we are all incredibly sad to feel the loss that we encountered by losing Jeep, it pales in comparison to the loss Dawn and the rest of Jeep's family have endured. I would be foolish to mention our loss and not acknowledge the life changing difficulty in the loss of Jeep as a husband and as a father.

"To Jeep's family, I am so sorry for your loss and I pray that you find peace at some point with his passing.

"In closing I would like to remind everyone that Jeep was passionate, hard-working, kind, giving and thoughtful. The very same traits many of you veterans possess.

"Going forward I ask that you continue to serve your community in the many roles that you do, like Jeep. Whether it is in the formal capacity through the Post or as simple as checking in on your neighbors in need or volunteering at your church or children's schools.

"When you do that you not only serve your community but you also serve Jeep and every other veteran's legacy.

"I invite you all to attend our next City Commission meeting on Monday night at 7 p.m. where we will be honoring Jeep's service with a Resolution of Commemoration. Thank you."

Do you need help? Write Us!

By Mike Wilcox
Owner/Publisher

Every year, as the Christmas season draws near, I'm reminded just how generous our communities can be. For nearly two decades, Wilcox Newspapers has hosted what's become one of my favorite traditions: our Annual Christmas Wish Program.

It started simply enough. We asked readers who were struggling to write in and tell us what would make their Christmas a little brighter. The idea was to connect local families in need with local people who wanted to help. Over the years, it's grown into something truly special—and this year, we're doing it again.

Lately, I've heard from more families than ever who are struggling to make ends meet. The rising cost of everyday necessities, from groceries and gas to rent and utilities, has stretched household budgets thin. It's been a tough year for a lot of people, and many are finding themselves in need of a little extra help just to get by.

If you or your family are going through a difficult time, I encourage you to write to us and be as specific as you can. Tell us about your situation, your family, and how we might help make your holiday a little brighter. Most importantly, explain why you need our help. We prefer you email us at wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com, but if you don't have access to a computer, you can always mail a letter to P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010.

Over the years, I've been amazed at the generosity that pours in from our readers and advertisers. One afternoon, while vacuuming our new office, I noticed an envelope on the floor. Inside were ten $100 bills—no note, no name, just a quiet act of kindness from someone who wanted to help. Another time, a donor sent $2,000. Several more gave $1,000 each. For a Scrooge like me, it's humbling to see just how deeply people here care for one another.

Last year alone, we were able to raise more than $20,000 in cash and gifts, helping over 70 families enjoy the holidays. This year, our goal is even higher. We hope to assist at least 100 families within our circulation areas.

I've always believed in the saying, "We take care of our own," and nowhere is that truer than in the communities we serve. So, if you legitimately need help this Christmas, and I stress LEGITIMATELY, please reach out to us. And if you're in a position to give, know that your generosity can change someone's holiday, and maybe their outlook on life, for the better.

Residents reminded about winter parking rules

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

With the calendar having turned from October to November, the City of Plainwell issued a reminder to its residents regarding the ordinance regulating overnight parking.

Per the ordinance, parking a motor vehicle or trailer overnight, within the right-of-way of any public street in the City of Plainwell, is prohibited between the hours of 2 and 5 a.m. The ordinance is in effect for the entire months of November, December, January, February and March regardless of weather conditions.

"This helps our crews safely and efficiently clear snow throughout the winter season.," City officials said in a social media post.

Residents are allowed to park on the street overnight between April 1 and October 31.

Overnight parking downtown is not allowed year-round unless you have a valid parking permit, and only in designated, marked lots.

"Thank you for helping keep our streets safe and clear this winter," Plainwell officials said.

The City of Otsego has a similar ordinance regarding overnight parking.

As in Plainwell, parking within the right-of-way of any public street in the City of Otsego is prohibited between the hours of 2 and 5 a.m. beginning Nov. 1. However, Otsego's ordinance also includes the month of April.

Physicians, ambulance drivers or undertakers on emergency calls are exempt.

"(The ordinance) also shall not apply where special permission has been given by the city manager or city commission due to unforeseen or unusual circumstances with respect to a particular parcel or particular use of a parcel and where such on-street parking is therefore reasonably necessary for a temporary time period of limited duration," states the language of the ordinance.

Such special permission will only be granted if:

* the condition is not a self-imposed hardship;

* if it is unique and not common to other property owners;

* if it will not increase traffic congestion or impair snow plowing or other necessary street operations;

* and if it will not otherwise adversely affect the public health, safety or welfare.

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Letts pleads to 4 charges, 33 dismissed

An Allegan County man originally charged with 37 sex-related crimes has pleaded no contest to four of them.

Casey Letts, 33, faced numerous charges stemming from a 2024 investigation that uncovered disturbing online and in-person behavior. Letts entered no contest pleas to one count of capturing or distributing child sexually abusive material, two counts of using a computer to commit a crime, and one count of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Authorities say Letts downloaded and shared large quantities of child pornography through social media apps Telegram and Instagram. The activity was first flagged by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which alerted the Michigan State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Allegan County Sheriff's Office.

According to a probable cause affidavit investigators collected extensive digital and physical evidence against Letts. Many details were described as too graphic to release publicly. Among the allegations, Letts was accused of sexually assaulting a woman while she was asleep, exposing himself at a Pullman-area church, and taking inappropriate photos up a woman's dress. Investigators also allege he exposed himself at a Dollar General in Hamilton and shared video of the incident online.

Authorities said Letts' sexual behavior appeared to be escalating, including filming young women leaving stores and recording females in their yards without consent.

In total, prosecutors authorized 37 felony charges in 2024, including criminal sexual conduct, possession and distribution of child sexually abusive material, indecent exposure, and unauthorized recording.

After his plea on November 10, 33 of the original charges were dismissed. Letts is scheduled to be sentenced on December 8 at 9 a.m.

Wayland Union Schools awarded COPS office SVPP grant

By Elizabeth Stein & Gari Voss

Wayland Union Schools has been working at completing upgrades and improvements through their 2023 Bond. Not only did the Bond focus on a new pool and fine arts areas, but a new robotics space, upgrades to the high school auto and wood shops, and technology. A focus was also placed on creating a more secure environment for students and staff. The security element will include an even better caveat thanks to the work of a specialized security system.

Wayland Union Schools is improving district safety thanks to a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). This fall, Wayland Union Schools Technology Director, Scott Getter, was awarded a COPS Office School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) grant. This competitive grant is designed to improve security in schools through evidence-based safety technology and infrastructure upgrades.

District Security Officer, Matt Miller, states, "Our district's number one goal is to provide a safe, secure environment for our students and staff, and this grant will continue to allow us the opportunity to provide the highest level of service to the community that we serve."

For Wayland Union Schools, the SVPP grant will fund upgrades to the video surveillance systems, providing situational awareness across the district. The upgraded system will feature high-quality video coverage, and the ability to securely share video with law enforcement in the event of an emergency. The new cloud-based platform is faster, more reliable, and meets federal cybersecurity standards.

"This grant gives us the ability to take a major step forward in protecting our students and staff," explained Getter. "By upgrading to a secure, modern surveillance system, we are enhancing not just our ability to respond to emergencies, but also our day-to-day ability to create a safe, welcoming place to learn and work."

Upgrades to the current system are set to begin in Fall 2025, with equipment purchasing, installation and staff training occurring in phases through Spring 2026.

Teresa Fulk, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, would like to acknowledge all the hard work and time that went into making this project possible for our students.

"We appreciate Mr. Getter's leadership in pursuing this grant. These upgrades help ensure that our students and staff have the safest and most effective learning environment possible" stated Mrs. Fulk. "Applying for and managing grants requires significant time and effort, it's worthwhile because they bring valuable resources that benefit our entire district. We're also grateful to the district staff who will support the purchase, installation, training, and implementation processes that make these improvements a reality."

For more information on the SVPP, visit their website at https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp.

Meals on Wheels offers new Pop Up Site in Allegan

By Gari Voss

Meal on Wheels has been able to deliver meals to Allegan County residents thanks to the work of the kitchen staff and volunteers at Meals on Wheels of West Michigan in Grandville. In addition to home delivery, Meals on Wheels also offers community dining sites, a senior pantry, and liquid nutritional supplements.

Currently, there are only two Community Dining Sites in Allegan County – Baraga Manor Senior Apartments in Otsego and the Hopkins United Methodist Church. When the members of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Allegan learned this, they contacted Christa Nesky, the Community Programs Assistant Manager in Grand Rapids.

Nesky explained that Good Shepherd would be a perfect site for a Pop Up Lunch. The date for the first lunch will be Friday, November 14, 2025, at the Good Shepherd Church, 101 N. Walnut St., Allegan.

The doors will open at 11am, and those in attendance will have time to visit or play a game. Lunch will be served beginning at Noon. The offerings will include savory beef pot roast with gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and a fruit side.

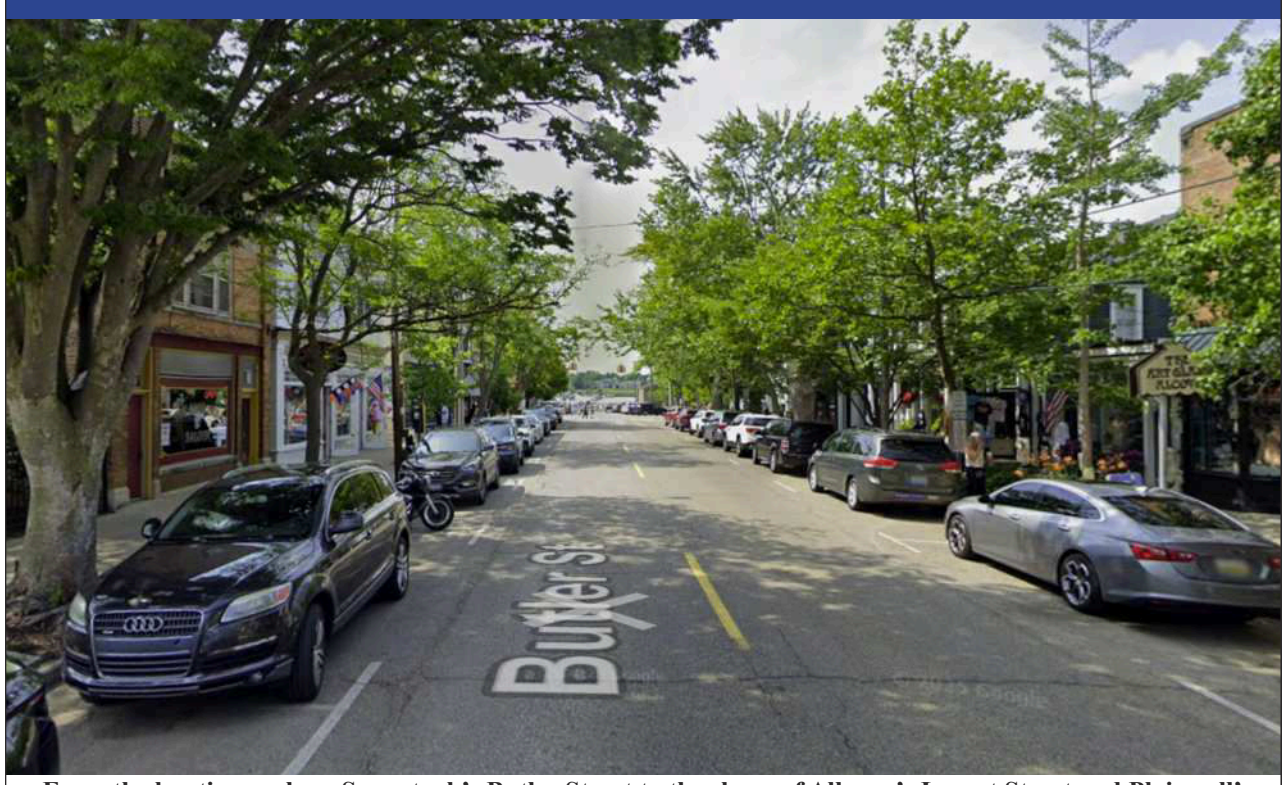
The goal is to promote community, so there are no takeout meals. For "customers" 60+, Meals on Wheels asks for a $3.50 donation. For those under 60, there is a required $5 fee for the meal.

If possible, Nesky asks that those planning to attend the gathering call 616 459-3111 and RSVP as soon as possible to ensure there will be enough food for all.

Meals on Wheels organizers realize that there are some people who would like to gather with friends or make new friends, and there's nothing quite like sharing a meal. Their Community Dining Sites are great places for eligible seniors to eat a nutritious lunch, chat with volunteers, and build relationships with their peers. Each location offers a monthly menu that's designed to reflect cultural and community needs and preferences—and some even offer bonus activities—so there's always something to look forward to.

Please RSVP if possible at 616 459-3111, but walk ins are welcome. Watch for the December Pop Up meal.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



From the boutiques along Saugatuck's Butler Street to the shops of Allegan's Locust Street and Plainwell's North Main, local retailers bring warmth, charm, and community spirit to Allegan County's downtowns. All photos from Google Maps.

SALUTE TO RETAILERS:

Keeping the Spirit of the Season Local

As the holidays approach, Allegan County's main streets and shopfronts come alive with the warmth of the season. Twinkling lights fill the windows, wreaths adorn the doors, and the familiar faces of local shopkeepers welcome customers inside. From Plainwell to Saugatuck or Wayland to Fennville, our retailers are at the heart of the holiday spirit.

These small businesses are more than places to buy gifts. They are gathering spots where neighbors greet each other, where shoppers find something special for a loved one, and where the community's creativity shines brightest. Whether it's a boutique in Saugatuck, a thrift store in Allegan, or a family-run hardware store in Plainwell, each local retailer adds something unique to the fabric of the season.

Shopping local during the holidays means more than just convenience — it's an investment in community. Every purchase helps support local jobs, strengthens the local tax base, and keeps our downtowns thriving. The money spent here stays here, circulating back into schools, public services, and other small businesses that make Allegan County a place people are proud to call home.

For retailers, the holiday season is often the busiest time of year, bringing long hours and hard work. Yet even amid the rush, local shop owners still find time to sponsor community drives, donate to local charities, and lend a hand to those in need. Their generosity helps ensure that the spirit of giving extends well beyond the checkout counter.

At Allegan County News, Commercial Record, and Union Enterprise, we recognize the heart and dedication of these retailers who make our communities shine.

This holiday season, we encourage readers to look close to home for their gifts and gatherings. By supporting local businesses, you're helping sustain the very people who make this county warm, welcoming, and full of cheer.

Today, we salute Allegan County's retailers — the dreamers, the doers, and the friendly faces who keep our local economy strong and our holiday traditions alive.

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ACCF celebrates 60-year anniversary, reveal strategic goals

By Gari Voss

The undercroft of the Griswold Auditorium took on a museum atmosphere as the Allegan County Community Foundation celebrated 60 years of investing funds from generous donors who believe in philanthropy and want to have their legacy continue to support the efforts of non-profits, organizations, and students.

The Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) transformed the basement of the Griswold Auditorium into a museum with memorabilia to celebrate their 60th anniversary and reveal their strategic goals for the future.

With ambiance set by Matt Kaynor and BC Sound and a program coordinated by Master of Ceremony Matt Grile, the evening encouraged those in attendance to complete a Scavenger Hunt which included ACCF co-founder Ethol Stone (portrayed by Spike Kunetz) assisting with answers to the clues.

Executive Director Stephanie Calhoun thanked those present, who included donors, partners, volunteers, and friends who support ACCF and help Allegan County thrive, grow and shine. "As ACCF looks ahead, we are guided by its core value that defines who we are and how we serve."

The impact which ACCF has on communities and organizations across Allegan County was punctuated by three vignettes from groups that had received ACCF grant funds that had truly made a difference for people and programs. The video can be accessed through ACCF's Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/AlleganCountyCommunityFoundation/ or on YouTube – ACCF 60th Anniversary https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylfptgkzoos.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2025 Nexus Award to Rob Marciniak. Jessica Arrans, the 2024 Nexis recipient, introduced Rob. "The Nexis Award goes to a professional advisor who does more than guide clients through financial decisions. They help people imagine what's possible when their resources are used to make life better for others. The Nexis Award celebrates the special connection when expertise meets heart and generosity that can be turned into lasting community impact. Tonight, it is my honor to recognize someone who embodies that spirit completely. Rob Marciniak is a trusted guide, a listener, and a steady hand helping navigate not just their financial futures but their hopes for the generations that follow. Rob opened the first Edward Jones office in Allegan in 1994 and has helped clients think beyond the balance sheet. True success is not only what we earn or save, but what we give back. Because of his guidance, more people in Allegan County are building legacies that will touch the lives of others for generations to come. Congratulations, Rob."

The ACCF Board Chair Ricardo Bazan introduced the new strategic plan that would guide the foundation for the next five years. "As we celebrate 60 years of impact at the ACCF, it's a perfect moment to look forward to the next chapter of our story. Over the past year, our team, board, and community partners have come together to craft a bold roadmap for the future. This new strategic plan designs a future built for impact. It is more than a document. It's a commitment. A commitment to strengthen our operations, grow our resources, and expand our leadership across Allegan County. It's about ensuring that every donor, nonprofit, and community member continues to see the foundation as a trusted partner for positive change. We are building on a remarkable legacy while preparing for the opportunities ahead."

Bazan went on to thank Stephanie and the staff for their vision and dedication in guiding this process. He stressed that their work assured that ACCF remains not just a funder but a leader, a conductor and a catalyst for lasting impact. He then reviewed the six goals of the new strategic plan. He assured those in attendance that the plan is a collective promise to keep listening, keep innovating, and keep investing in the people and places that make Allegan County extraordinary. In summary, he stated, "Together ACCF and the people of Allegan County are not just celebrating 60 years but designing the next 60 years."

The "secret" of the evening was then unveiled by ACCF treasurer Kevin Harness, who announced, "ACCF has always believed that the funds entrusted to us should work for the good of this community. That's why we're thrilled to announce a bold new step forward. Our commitment to impact investing. Beginning in 2026, up to 5% of the foundations' endowment will be invested right here in Allegan County in projects and partnerships that deliver both financial return and community impact.

"What does that mean? Today, the commitment represents $1.5 million available to support key projects to strengthen Allegan County, including affordable housing, childcare, small business development, innovative community infrastructure, and local sustainable efforts. This is philanthropy in action. Investments that do good. This isn't just about investing dollars, it's about investing in people, places, and the future we're building together. 60 years of impact has brought us here, and with your partnership, our next chapter will build a stronger, more vibrant, and more resilient Allegan County for generations to come. We truly appreciate all your efforts and collaboration in this effort. A big impact with that amount of money can do some great things across our county. So, again, thank you for your support."

The program concluded with the thoughts of ACCF staff and board members…

We believe in the power of community. ACCF's actions are rooted in the voices, needs and aspirations of Allegan County residents. ACCF upholds the highest code of ethics, transparency, and stewardship in the management of resources entrusted to them. We are committed to advancing equity, offering inclusive practices, and honoring the dignity of every individual and community served. We strive to support partners that amplify collective impact knowing that together, they can achieve more than one organization alone. We address community challenges to create lasting change. We lead with empathy and respect, serving the community with a deep sense of care, responsibility and connection. We honor the past, invest wisely in the present, and plan intentionally for a stronger future to protect the legacy and intent of donors.

Calhoun concluded, "Thank you for being part of this legacy, thank you for believing in Allegan County, and thank you for continuing this journey with us because our best chapters are still ahead. Here's to 60 years of impact into the future we will create together."

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Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of November 10, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

November Holiday Canned Food Drive: Hosted by Beacon Allegan and Beacon Plainwell. Drop off cans of food or money at the hospital that will be given to the Allegan County Food Pantries.

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025, 6pm: Hearts & Hands Carnival. The Trestle Stop, 3366 M-40, Hamilton. Community Action of Allegan County celebrates its 60th Anniversary

NEW! Fri., Nov. 14, 2025, 11am-1pm: Meals-on-Wheels Pop Up Lunch. Good Shepherd Church, 101 N. Walnut, Allegan. RSVP if possible at 616 459-3111 x143.

Fri., Nov. 14, 7pm: Girls in the Boat. Allegan Performing Arts Center, 1560 M-40, Allegan. A delightful evening of determination and hard work to become the best.

Fri., Nov. 14, 2025, 8pm: Alastair Watt - Pure MI Stand-Up Comedy Tour. Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan

Sat., Nov. 15, NOON: Korean War Vets Recognition. City Hall. All are invited.

Sat., Nov. 15, 7pm: Girls in the Boat. Allegan Performing Arts Center, 1560 M-40, Allegan. A delightful evening of determination and hard work to become the best.

Now-Nov. 19, 2025: Festival of Trees Camper Fundraiser
Help campers attend camp. Visit https://www.facebook.com/CampKidwell/ and click on Fundraiser picture to select what you would like to purchase – frozen pies, pumpkin rolls, sugar cookies, frozen cookie dough balls, fresh wreaths, or poinsettias. Articles can be picked up on Nov. 26th, 26th or 29th. Or call 269 521-3559.

CURRENT EVENTS

Tues., Nov. 11, 2025, 6-7:30pm: Come to the Table sharing session
Leighton Township Library 4451 12th St. Wayland
Share your stories, ideas and experiences related to food whether your eat food, buy food, sell food, serve food, or grow food, join the Allegan Food Alliance with the goal of creating a vibrant, affordable, local food community across Allegan County. For information contact Mary Colborn at (269) 286-9084 or maryacolborn@gmail.com.

Wed., Nov. 12, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Recess for Adults – All adults can join friends from The Arc of Allegan County for games, grafts and conversation.
6pm: Financial Wellness - Ashley Suarez from Fifth Third Bank will help participants learn how to manage finances.

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025: Poverty Education Workshop
Christian Neighbors 282 12th St. Plainwell
Hosted by ACCF and facilitated by Cristian Neighbors. Come to learn the frustrations of being financially stretched. https://allegan.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/list/event?event_date_id=3575 or call ACCF 269 673-8344.

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
4pm: TAG meeting – 8-12 graders can drop in for the Teen Advisory Group to share ideas and snacks.
6pm: Canva for Beginners – Register to learn how to navigate Canva and go over basic graphic design principles. Call 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025, 5-7pm: DDA Open House
Allegan City Hall Trowbridge St. Allegan
All are welcome to share ideas for the future of Downtown Allegan.

Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025, 6pm: Hearts & Hands Carnival
The Trestle Stop 3366 M-40 Hamilton
Community Action of Allegan County celebrates its 60th Anniversary with an adults only evening under the Big Top. For information contact 269 673-5472 X264. For tickets go to https://p2p.onecause.com/heartshands2025.

Fri., Nov. 14, 2025, 11am-1pm: Meal-on-Wheels Drop in Lunch
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut Allegan
All are welcome to come for lunch, conversation and maybe a few games. Seniors are asked to donate $3.50. All others pay $5. RSVP if possible at 616 459-3111 x143 or just come.

Fri., Nov. 14, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
1pm: Drop-In Lego Club – 5-12 year olds can drop in to play with oodles of Legos.
6pm: Teen Tech Night – 6-12 graders can register to explore 3-D printing and play video games after hours. Call 269 673-4625.

Fri., Nov. 14, 7pm: Girls in the Boat.
Allegan Performing Arts Center, 1560 M-40, Allegan.
A delightful evening of determination and hard work to become the best. Tickets at the door

Fri., Nov. 14, 2025, 8pm: Alastair Watt - Pure MI Stand-Up Comedy Tour
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
Alastair Watt, a small town city boy, will do stand-up comedy at the Griswold. Tickets online or at the door.

Sat., Nov. 15, 2025, NOON: Korean War Veterans Recognized
City Hall Trowbridge St. Allegan
All are invited to celebrate Korean War Vets as they receive the Ambassador of Peace Award from the Patriots and Veterans Affairs and the Republic of Korea.

Sat., Nov. 15, 7pm: Girls in the Boat.
Allegan Performing Arts Center, 1560 M-40, Allegan.
A delightful evening of determination and hard work to become the best. Tickets at the door

Mon., Nov. 17, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
3:30pm: Kids' Anime Club – All ages can bring their own Beyblade spinning tops and challenge friends to see who wins!
6pm: Craftastic: Macrame Feathers – Register to make macrame feathers. Call 269 673-4625.

Mon., Nov. 17, 2025, 3-4:30pm: Grief Support Group
Ransom District Library 180 S. Sherwood Ave. Plainwell
Wings of Hope is proud to offer meaningful support to individuals navigating challenging times. Join in on a dedicated session designed to foster healing and connection.

Tues., Nov. 18, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 02 yr. olds can enjoy stories and activities.
4pm: TAB – Join the Tween Advisory Board to chat, chill, and chow down while brainstorming ideas, share favorite books, and spark new connections!

Tues., Nov. 18, 2025, 6:30-7:30pm: Virtual Health Hero's Nutrition Class
Register in English or Spanish at bit.ly/familiesconnected2026.

Wed., Nov. 19, 2025, 6:30pm: Pub Quiz
Tantrick Brewing Co Hubbard St. Allegan
Begin registering teams at 5:30 then enjoy friendly competition led by the Allegan Library staff. Library cards bring extra points.

Thurs., Nov. 20, 2025, 9am-3pm: Advocacy Bootcamp
Allegan High School Conference Center Western Ave. (M-89/M-40) Allegan
Gain tools, strategies and confidence to advocate for your organizations. Applications were due Oct. 17th. Contact Lauren at lvanderploeg@alleganfoundation.org or (269) 673-8344 x209

Thurs., Nov. 20, 2025, 12-3pm: Allegan County Child Support Bench Warrant Clinic
1st Baptist Church 1290 32nd St. Allegan
Bring proof of income if employed, cash only payment, and proof of disability of appropriate, and work with Friend of the Court staff to find steps to resolve delinquent payments. For more information, call 877 543-2660.

Thurs., Nov. 20, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 yr. olds can enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: Tween STEAM Club – 4-7 graders can register to learn about simple science with lights, batteries and Squishy Circuits. Call 269 673-4625

Thurs., Nov. 20, 2025, 5pm: Tree of Love Lighting & Open House
Allegan Beacon Hospital 555 Linn St. Allegan
The Borgess Hospital Foundation, Beacon Allegan Hospital invite everyone to join the lighting of the magnificent tree whose lights represent loved ones who have faced cancer. The program and refreshments will allow for conversation and memories. Contributions from individuals and sponsors can be made by contacting 269-226-8100.

Thurs., Nov. 20, 2025, 4-6pm: Third Thirsty Thursday
Tantrick Brewing 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
The Allegan Area Chamber and Allegan Jaycees invite all to come and enjoy.

Fri., Nov. 21, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Little Read Lakeshore Sing Song Yoga – Drop in to join Deb Weiss-Gelmi as she guides us through yoga, movement, literacy, and music.
3:30pm: Animation Station Short Film Festival – Register to join the very first Animation Station Short Film Festival where we will showcase all our young artists' creativity and hard work. Call 269 673-4625.

Sat., Nov. 22, 2025, 11am: Jumpstart Genealogy
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Megan Heyl is back to help hunt down and organize family history.

Sat., Nov. 22, 2025, 5:30pm: Loaves & Fishes Concert
First Methodist Church 212 S. Park St. Kalamazoo
Enjoy a wonderful concert organized by the K'zoo Folklife Org., the Allegan Chapter, and the Great Lakes Acoustic Music Assoc. Bring a food or money donation and enjoy the music.

Mon., Nov. 24, 2025, 6pm: Bingo
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
All are welcome for some friendly competition.

Tues., Nov. 25, 2025, 1pm: Grief Support Luncheon
Salvino's 1290 M089, Plainwell
Join Wings of Hope and others who are finding themselves, and have a wonderful lunch.

Tues., Nov. 25, 2025, 1pm: Friends of the Library Meeting
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
All are welcome to join the conversation and planning.

Sat., Nov. 29, 10am-6pm: Small Business Saturday Merry Market
The Shoppes on Brady St., 136 Brady, Allegan
The building will be full of new businesses and artists. Stop and shop while having fun at Eccentric Garden Plant Shop, Essenburg Arts, Bound & Boarded Books, Games and More.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING
MARTIN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION

Please take notice that on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 6:00 pm the Martin Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at the Martin Township Hall, 998 Templeton Street, Martin, MI, 49070. A Public Hearing will take place upon the following matters which will be discussed, deliberated and possibly have final action taken thereon:

1. To seek comment and take action on recommending or not recommending adoption of the final 2026 Martin Township Master Plan to the Martin Township Board, following conclusion of the required commenting period and in accordance with MCL 125.3843, the "Planning Enabling Act."
2. Such other matters that may come properly before the Planning Commission.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and participate. Applications and related documents shall be made available for public viewing at the Martin Township Office during regular business hours. Written comments may be submitted to the Martin Township Planning Commission up until the date of the public hearing by mailing to or dropping off at the Martin Township Office at 998 Templeton Street, Martin, Michigan, 49070 during regular business hours or by contacting the Township Clerk at 616-760-3065.

Margaret Smith, Secretary
Martin Township Planning Commission

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Paws with a Cause celebrates grand opening

By Jay Kurtis Oetman

November 6, 2025 officially recognized as *Paws With A Cause Day*

It was a day filled with wagging tails, grateful hearts, and proud Michiganders as *Paws With A Cause* celebrated the grand opening of its newly renovated $10 million facility on November 6, 2025. The expanded campus now features a state-of-the-art breeding center and training center, ensuring that this Michigan-born nonprofit can continue its life-changing mission for years to come.

The event carried an extra note of celebration as officials in Lansing officially declared November 6 "Paws With A Cause Day" across the State of Michigan, honoring decades of dedication to empowering individuals with disabilities through expertly trained assistance dogs. For an organization that began with a simple vision of partnership between humans and animals, the proclamation marked a powerful acknowledgment of its enduring impact.

Paws With A Cause trains five types of assistance dogs: hearing dogs, service dogs for mobility, epileptic seizure response dogs, service dogs for children with autism, and medical alert detection dogs. Each animal undergoes a meticulous process of breeding, raising, and custom training before being paired with a client whose needs match the dog's specialized skills. The total cost for each placement—approximately $60,000, is entirely covered by the generosity of donors and volunteers. No government or federal funding helps offset that expense, yet every dog is provided completely free of charge to the person it serves.

Michele Suchovsky, CEO of *Paws With A Cause* exclaimed: "November 6 is officially Paws With A Cause Day. How awesome is that?!"

The joy was shared by volunteers, trainers, clients, and supporters who gathered to see the facility's unveiling. What began as a small Michigan dream has grown into a nationally respected model of compassion and innovation, one that continues to remind us all of the power of partnership, perseverance, and paws.

Bird flu detected in Allegan County flock

Bird flu has been detected in a flock of Allegan County poultry.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) detected the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus during an investigation, per a state press release.

The exact location of the flock was not disclosed.

This is the second case in poultry found in an Allegan County flock since the virus was first detected in Michigan in 2022, per the release, and the second case detected in Allegan County poultry this year.

Ottawa County has reported seven cases of bird flu in commercial and backyard flocks so far in 2025.

Regardless of operation size, it's important to follow safety precautions when handling poultry, according to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The avian influenza is a highly contagious virus that spreads easily from flock to flock, including by wild birds, contact with infected poultry, equipment or on farmer's clothes and shoes.

However, the CDC states public health risk associated with avian influenza still remains low.

Semi driver that struck bridge cited for oversized load

US-131 from 100th St. to 142nd Avenue was closed this past week after a semi truck driver struck the 146th Avenue bridge overpass in Allegan County. Now, the driver behind the closure is facing a citation.

The semi driver has been cited with having an oversized load, according to Lt. Brandon Berens with the Allegan County Sheriff's Office.

The bridge was struck on Monday, Nov. 3, and the freeway remained closed until Saturday evening, Nov. 8.

"The equipment was improperly loaded as it was not properly prepared for transport which caused it to be taller than it should have been," said Berens.

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The True Spirit of Christmas Lives in Helping Others

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

As the Christmas season approaches, the lights, music, and festive cheer remind us of joy, family, and tradition. But amid the celebration, it's also a time to remember what this season truly represents — compassion, generosity, and community. For many families, Christmas isn't about abundance or gifts under the tree; it's about simply getting through another winter month. That's why it's so important that those who are able reach out to help those who are not — and why the Wilcox Newspapers Christmas Wish Fund remains a vital part of our community's holiday spirit.

The holidays can be especially hard for struggling families. Rising costs of food, utilities, and housing have left many parents wondering how they'll afford even the basics, let alone Christmas gifts for their children. For seniors living alone or on fixed incomes, loneliness can weigh as heavily as financial strain. This is where we — as neighbors, friends, and caring citizens — can make a difference.

Each year, the Christmas Wish Fund, supported by donations from readers and local businesses, helps bring a bit of hope to those who need it most. Whether it's providing a warm coat for a child, groceries for a family, or a small gift for someone who thought they'd been forgotten, every dollar donated touches a real life right here in our communities. It's proof that even small acts of kindness ripple outward, turning despair into gratitude and hardship into hope.

Giving isn't just about money — it's about empathy. It's about seeing beyond our own front doors and realizing that our neighbors' struggles may not always be visible. The holidays are an ideal time to pause and reflect on our blessings, and to share them. When we give through efforts like the Christmas Wish Fund, we're not only lifting others up — we're strengthening the bonds that make our communities special.

We have been spearheading this fund to help the less fortunate in our communities for over ten years. We have contributed countless thousands of dollars to hundreds of families. The funding has come from the generous local businesses in our communities, as well as wonderful individuals who have it in their heart to help others.

In a world that often feels divided, generosity is a unifying force. It reminds us that what truly matters isn't what we receive, but what we give. So this Christmas, as you wrap gifts and share meals, consider helping those who could use a little extra light in their lives. A contribution to the Wilcox Newspapers Christmas Wish Fund is more than a donation — it's a message of hope, kindness, and community spirit.

I can't thank enough those that have contributed in the past. We have received donations from $10 to $2000 and every penny has went to help a less fortunate family in the area in which the donation came from.

To donate or request assistance through the Wilcox Newspapers Christmas Wish Fund, please email us at wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com. Assistance is requested by writing a letter telling us why you deserve to be funded. Individuals can donate by sending a check to Wilcox Newspapers, PO Box 189, Allegan Mi. 49010.

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

The Allegan County News and Union Enterprise will in no case be responsible for typographical or other errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs. The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any material at any time. The right is reserved to reject, omit or edit any material offered for publication.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

For someone who is not a certified member of the Handyman's Union and a complete all-thumbs fiasco in most do-it-yourself projects, I find myself having to make a stop at a hardware store a couple times a week. Especially in autumn.

I suddenly discover my string trimmer is running low on string and snow shovel cracked after slashing at icicles last spring. I should also lay in a small stash of duct tape, candles and batteries in various denominations. Something to melt the ice? One more trip.

I am sure there'll be more, such as replacing the scraper and brush for the car windows if I can't find the one from last year. Making lists doesn't work when you misplace the list.

I avoid big box stores, as much as possible, even if I could save big bucks. They have plenty of inventory, just not on the right shelf so I can find it. Nor do I have great luck flagging down a sales associate.

Like some of you Olds, I grew up in an era when there were only small, locally-owned stores. The type where everyone knew your name and if you were a regular, the employees shout it as you walked through the door, as if we were long-lost friends. If it was a quiet day, they'd like to visit and would eventually walk you down the aisle to get the widget.

Growing up, we went to the Ace Hardware not far from my father's business. As soon as I came through the front door, and before he would ask if I needed some help finding something, Mr. Jensen would ask about my parents, how my sister "pi-anny" lessons were going and things like that.

Before he let me proceed, he would always remind me that Old Axel was in the basement and it would mean a lot to him if I'd go down and say hello. I sometimes wondered if they kept him down there on purpose.

Axel was an old codger who came over on the boat from Norway back when Grover Cleveland was in the White House. You could tell that from his accent that never changed.

When he settled in Rochester, Minn., he joined the Sons of Norway as a charter member. Through his lodge brothers, he got his first job as a fireman on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad,

He saw the country one scoopful of coal at a time until the diesels replaced the steam engines. Ace hired him because he was experienced in shoveling stuff and keeping the firebox going so the store stayed toasty.

His lodge brothers held their meetings in the basement until the night police raided the place sure it was a speakeasy, long after Prohibition was over. It wasn't.

That's where a helpful hardware employee suggested an old-fashioned a lot less expensive. He said they had industrial-strength fertilizer in the basement and I should start off with just one bag because it wasn't safe to keep too much of it lying around. No kidding! That stuff was bomb-grade 48-percent nitrogen.

He advised on the way home I stop by a deep-discount store, buy inexpensive nylons, fill the legs with the fertilizer and put them up on the roof, with a little hanging over the roofline to make a channel for the melting ice.

When I asked if this was safe, he assured me it was. "Just don't drop a leg-full of it down on the cement." He didn't say what might happen but suffice it to note I was careful going up and down the ladder.

Nothing blew up or caught fire that day nor did I fall off the ladder, so I thought I was home safe. Neatness counts in a job like this, so I made sure just a little of the toe was hanging over the edge, the better for the melting snow to drip.

Then on Sunday when we were coming home fro church, Pat wanted to know what was up on the roof. "Are those my ...?" she started to ask, and I explained I bought them especially for the purpose she saw before her. She was even less impressed when I told her what I put in the nylons.

It worked more or less, although Pat never got used to the toes hanging over the edge. We didn't have the build-up of snow and ice on the roof, but neither did we have a very rough winter.

We need shops and stores where we have the people connection. It is good all around, starting with the ritual of small talk before making a purchase.

We are grateful the store hasn't been swallowed up by a big-box corporation. So we get what we need, sometimes things we don't need, and keep the connections alive and well.

It's a good thing and an important part of life.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanksgiving, The Forgotten Holiday

Dear Editor:

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared that the last Thursday of November would be a national holiday, following a practice of the pilgrims who set aside a day of fasting, prayer, and giving thanks. In subsequent years, the day's meaning has been altered many times. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed the date to the third Thursday of November, in an effort to bolster holiday sales and extend the season. The change was not popular or well-received. Consequently, in 1941, he moved the date back to the last Thursday of November.

Nowadays, Thanksgiving is squeezed between Halloween and Christmas, both of which have also lost their meanings.

What does Thanksgiving mean to you? A four-day weekend? Black Friday Sales? Family gatherings? A turkey dinner? Football? ANSWER: A day to give thanks! Do we not all have something to be thankful for? Think about it.

Jerry Miller
Allegan

After research, reader promotes AxMITax

Dear Editor:

While driving home, there seems to be more and more signs advertising AxMITax. So one day I stopped and read the sign. Sure enough, the sign is proposing a 2026 Ballot Proposal to eliminate Michigan's Property taxes.

Not paying much to what I pay in property tax, I thought it's time I did. Keeping my Social Security income seems like a good idea. I did some looking at my property tax history. We first moved to Michigan in 2003 and paid about $2,500 per year; in 2024 we paid about $5,000 per year. Wow, that's about 100% increase.

How is that possible? Why, that's nearly three (3) months of my Social Security retirement. The Property Tax is about $2,200 higher than the yearly electric bill and about $1,800 higher than the yearly propane bill. This is not making me happy! Enough is Enough!

For sure, it looks like property taxes are set up to steal my hard-earned money in a legal way. I decided some homework about property taxes is required. Using official web sites and Artificial Intelligence search engines, here are some facts about Property Tax Law in Allegan County. Facts listed are directly from official State web sites, no editing.

"Taxable value calculation: The local township assessor determines a property's taxable value, which is approximately 50% of the market value. Millage rate: To find the most current millage rates, you must contact the Township treasurer. Taxable value caps: Michigan law protects homeowners by capping the annual increase in a property's taxable value at no more than 5%, or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. "Uncapping" upon sale: When a property is sold, the taxable value "uncaps" and is reset to the state-equalized value (roughly 50% of market value), which can significantly increase the tax bill for a new owner."

"Delinquency begins: Unpaid taxes from the prior year become delinquent on March 1.

County takes over: The property is turned over to the county treasurer for collection.

Fees and interest added: The county treasurer adds a 4% administration fee and begins charging 1% interest per month on the unpaid balance.

Second year of delinquency (March 1)

Property forfeiture: If taxes remain unpaid, the property is "forfeited" to the county treasurer.

Increased penalties: The interest rate increases to 1.5% per month, and a new forfeiture fee of around $175 is added, along with other administrative costs."

The local assessor determines a property's taxable value of your property every year. Assessors heavily rely on the sales comparison approach, which involves analyzing recent sales of similar properties (comparable sales or "comps") in the same neighborhood. They conduct two-year sales studies to ensure the assessed values reflect the local real estate market. Notice, reality property sales rarely if ever goes down; values never go down because of the cost of inflation, materials, … and labor. That increased property value number gets put into a computer somewhere, calculations are made and magically, your new higher Property Taxes Bill is mailed to you. Of course, there are strict penalties too, see Delinquency Section above.

More homework discoveries were made when visiting some neighbors. To my surprise, they're paying more than $5,000 each year because they fall into the "Uncapping" upon sale" category. So the new market property sale price is used to calculate the new owners property tax. Please note: for most tax increases, there is no change in community Local Services or Essential Government Services. Why, it's only more of your money in the hands of State Officials, Bureaucrats.

Another idea jumped out at me. How much money is being collected by Property Taxes? Using the latest version of Google's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Software and many different wordings of tax questions, the answer was another Big Surprise! The Surprise, see partial list below:

Here is the AI results: "While the total property tax collected in Townships, Allegan County, Michigan, for specific years is not available in the search results, some related information was found."

Estimated property tax: Fire Improvement Millage (2025): An estimated $443,806 will be raised in the first year of a restored 2-mill tax. Road Improvement Millage (2025): An estimated $665,709 will be raised in the first year of a new 3-mill tax."

Could the AI results be incorrect? Perhaps a freedom of information request is needed to discover how much of Michigander's money is or was collected. Michigan is rated as having relatively high property taxes compared to most U.S. States; Michigan is ranked 14th highest in Property Taxes. There are also county differences too, some lower, some higher. It's clear, Property taxes are guaranteed to go higher for all Eternity.

As a side note, whoever wrote, passed and continues to update Property Tax Law was especially gifted to ensure automatic growth and increases of higher taxes are built into the law; as a result, home owners always lose even if their home is decades old. See "Legal Plunder" circa 1850: Frederic Bastiat, "The Law and the State".

In closing, if sufficient number of signatures are collected for A 2026 Ballot Proposal to eliminate Property Tax, see AxMITax.org or info@AxMITax.org, voters will have the opportunity to determine if more money can continue being legally stolen from homeowners. If there are not enough signatures, Property Taxes will continue to increase, the sky has no limit.

Perhaps I'm just renting my home from the Michigan Government?

Philip Zamlynski

Tree of Love ensures early cancer detection

By Gari Voss

The Allegan Hospital has recently changed from Borgess Allegan to Beacon Allegan, but special programs continue. The *Tree of Love* is celebrating 40 years of saving lives through early breast cancer detection. The *Tree of Love* campaign is celebrating 40 years of life-saving impact on Thursday, November 20, 2025, and the tree will be lit in the hospital lobby at 5pm.

Over those 40 years, thousands of contributors have donated to the *Tree of Love* by purchasing lights for the tree. That tradition continues and contributions can be made at any time at beacon.health/treeoflove.

Launched in 1985, the *Tree of Love* began as an annual fundraiser to help patients requiring access to vital healthcare. Since then, it has become a cornerstone of providing early breast cancer detection for patients throughout southwest Michigan. When breast cancer is found early, it's often more treatable, and survival rates are significantly higher.

Julie Ruel, Director of Annual Programs for the Borgess Hospital Foundation, stated, "Over the years, the *Tree of Love* has supported thousands of patients, providing access to critical services regardless of their ability to pay. This life-changing work continues today, and is made possible by generous community donations during the annual campaign which kicked off at the beginning of October."

Celebrate 40 Years of Impact on November 20th

The entire Allegan community is invited to mark this special milestone by contributing to the 2025 *Tree of Love* campaign and attending the open house and tree lighting on November 20th at 5pm in the Beacon Allegan Hospital lobby.

The *Tree of Love* Lighting Ceremony is a beloved tradition that honors breast cancer patients, donors, and healthcare champions with a signature pink glow. The tree is a symbol of strength, hope, and healing for many across the community.

Following the lighting, community members have the opportunity to meet Kreg Gruber, CEO of Beacon Health System, and hear the vision for supporting the health and wellbeing of Allegan County.

Make an impact and honor a loved one - dedicate a light

Each donation to the *Tree of Love* offers the opportunity to honor or remember a loved one. This is represented by a light on the tree. Honorees receive a personalized card notifying them of the special tribute.

This year, the Borgess Hospital Foundations at Beacon Kalamazoo, Beacon Dowagiac, and Beacon Allegan aim to raise $75,000 to support local patients in need. Every dollar given to Beacon Allegan directly supports access to early detection services and compassionate care for patients in Allegan.

Corporate sponsorship opportunities are available. Secure, tax-deductible donations can be made at beacon.health/treeoflove. For more information, contact the Borgess Allegan Hospital Foundation at 269-226-8100.

The 2025 Tree of Love Ceremony will move into the Beacon Allegan Hospital lobby on Nov. 20, 2025, at 5pm, and the hundreds of pink bulbs will shine to honor or remember all those who have dealt with cancer.

Obituaries

Marietta Kaylor

Dr. Marietta Kaylor, a beloved and compassionate family physician and surgeon, devout Seventh-day Adventist, and a warm-hearted family member and friend, passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at her home after a brief illness. She was surrounded by her family and loved ones.

Born in Allegan, Michigan, on November 27, 1939, to the late Bert and Alah (Root) Kaylor, Marietta's commitment to excellence was evident from an early age. She graduated as valedictorian from Hopkins High School. Her academic achievements continued as she graduated cum laude from Andrews University and later was the top graduate of her class at Loma Linda University, where she earned her medical degree.

Dr. Kaylor dedicated her life to caring for others. Her distinguished medical career began in her hometown of Allegan, Michigan, where she practiced obstetrics and surgery. She continued her practice for a short time in Mountain Grove, Missouri, and later moved it to Cleburne, Texas, where she worked with skill and compassion until her retirement. Her patients remember her for her expertise, kindness, patience, and genuine empathy.

Her family and friends cherished Marietta for her generous spirit, comforting presence, sense of humor, and beautiful smile. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bert and Alah Kaylor, and her younger brother, Bruce Kaylor.

Dr. Kaylor is survived by her younger brother, Larry Kaylor, and her adopted sister, Mary Lou Grazier, along with many loving nieces, nephews, extended family, and a wide circle of friends.

In place of flowers, memorials may be sent to Wings of Hope in Allegan or Your Story Hour in Niles, Michigan.

Cheryl Ann Sackett

Cheryl Ann Sackett passed on to rest in peace on October 29, 2025 after fighting health issues.

Cheryl was born on December 20, 1952. She was a lifetime West Michigan resident, raised in Saugatuck, graduated from Saugatuck High School, and later resided in Fennville and Glenn.

Strong work ethic was Cheryl's trademark. She worked as a bank teller, a bartender, a store clerk, and a bookkeeper among her many jobs. She spent many years working for the company, Acro, and more recently, for the store, Wagoner's.

Cheryl was the mother of two sons, Richie and Brian. She can be remembered for supporting her sons through high school and high school sports. She could be found cheering for her sons at their football or basketball games. Once Cheryl became a grandmother, she loved treating her grandchildren to birthday festivities and parties. This brought her joy. Cheryl loved cats and dogs. She cared for these extended family members, and they provided her great affection. Two of her cherished pets were Sammy (the family dog) and Harley (her and her mother's cat).

Cheryl Ann Sackett

Some of Cheryl's pastimes included going to car races or seeing a movie at the theatre. She also loved shopping!

Cheryl is survived by her two sons, Richie (Angie) Sackett, Brian (Noemi) Sackett; her son by affinity, nephew, Brent (Sabrina) Lawson; and her six grandchildren Sadina, Richie III, Kobe, Zenaida, Mariah, and Payton. She is also survived by her sisters, Polly (Jack) Lawson, JoAnne (Bill) Sill, and her brother, Doug Compton. She is preceded in death by her parents Richard and Agnes Compton.

The family will have a private interment.

OPS recognizes National School Safety Week

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

From Monday, Oct. 20, through Friday, Oct. 24, Otsego Public Schools staff members led students through series of safety drills.

It was part of the district's recognition of National School Safety Week and served as a reminder of the commitment OPS has to protecting its students' well-being.

OPS director of secondary institution Mark Rollandini is the district's school safety liaison.

"Six years ago, we decided to recognize School Safety Week to raise student, staff and community awareness and re-energize our commitment to school safety," Rollandini said. "We run all of our required drills and rehearse our safety systems and protocols, resulting in improvement and increased awareness across the district."

In addition to running the required drills, each building in the district also tests safety systems. This includes communications protocols, working with local fire and law enforcement partners and each building's surveillance systems.

This year, OPS added the "I Love U Guys Standard Response Protocol" to its safety measures.

The I Love U Guys Standard Response Protocol is a school safety plan that uses simple, actionable language for responding to any emergency.

The protocol is based on five core actions—hold, secure, lockdown, evacuate and shelter—which provide a consistent framework for students, staff, and first responders during a crisis.

The protocol's goal is to minimize confusion and improve reaction time by giving clear directives that can be applied to any scenario, from a medical emergency to a natural disaster, according to the I Love U Guys Foundation.

"This year, Safety Week required us all to reconsider our reactions to emergency situations," Rollandini said. "As the first line of defense during any emergency situation, we use this week to reflect on our response to emergencies.

"The biggest changes are with changes to staffing and new students which may require adjusting our protocols and response to reflect those changes."

The results from School Safety Week are reviewed by staff members at each building, and possible adjustments are discussed. Any concerns or questions are presented to OHS's District Safety Team.

"Safety is our number one priority," Rollandini said. "We have strong systems and protocols in place to keep staff and students safe, and with our Safety Week we continue to build our confidence so that we can react accurately to emergency situations should they arise."

Volunteers sought to maintain Little Libraries in Otsego

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Like many communities, the City of Otsego features "Little Free Libraries" in different locations throughout town.

The concept is a simple but powerful one: take a book, leave a book.

The goal of this community-based, free book exchange is to promote literacy and the love of reading by providing access to free books at all times.

Now, officials with the City of Otsego and Otsego Public Schools are asking for help when it comes to maintaining its five Little Libraries.

"We are looking for someone to help maintain the mobile libraries," City officials said in a social media post. "It would be a perfect project for someone who loves to get people reading and wants to make a difference in our wonderful community."

Those interested in helping are asked to contact Gina Watson, a literacy coach with Otsego Public Schools. She can be reached at gwatson@otsegops.org.

"(It's) not a huge job, but (it's) an important one," officials said.

The "Little Library" movement began in 2009 in Hudson, Wis. It has since grown into a network that spans the globe, with more than 150,000 registered libraries.

Primary features of the Little Libraries include:

* Free Access: Books are always free, and no library card, sign-up, or due dates are involved.

* Honor System: Users are encouraged to share books but are not required to return the specific book they took. The system relies on the community to keep the collection stocked.

* Community Building: Beyond simply sharing books, they aim to be "mini-town squares," fostering a sense of community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access in neighborhoods.

* Variety of Books: They generally contain a wide range of reading materials for all ages—from children's picture books to adult novels and non-fiction—reflecting the diverse interests of the community members who contribute them.

The City of Otsego has five Little Libraries throughout town that are in need of a volunteer to help maintain. (Photo provided)

City of Otsego updates leaf pickup

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The City of Otsego has issued an update for its annual fall leaf pickup.

The second round of pickups was originally scheduled to take place between Monday, Nov. 10, and Thursday, Nov. 13.

Now, the second and final pickup has been pushed back a week and will run from Monday, Nov. 17, to Thursday, Nov. 20.

For residents who live on Farmer and Allegan streets, the pickup date will be Thursday, Nov. 20. It had been slated to take place on Thursday, Nov. 13.

City officials, in the update announcement, also noted that random pickups may occur before and between scheduled pickups.

If the leaves are not in the street they will not be picked up.

Residents were again reminded that, with the exception of Allegan and Farmer streets, all leaves are to be raked into the street next to the curb.

The final round of leaf pickup will be followed by the street sweeper. Once the street sweeper has passed, pickup is complete and leaves will no longer be picked up by the City.

"Please do not place anything except leaves in the street," officials said in a statement. "The City places these leaves on a compost pile and therefore, branches, twigs and other yard waste must not be included.

"Brush and other yard waste may be taken to the City's Transfer Station free of charge. It is the City's policy to canvass the City two times. If leaves are placed in the street after completion of the canvassing, they will not be removed. It is the resident's responsibility to dispose of the leaves at the Transfer Station."

The Transfer Station is located off Helen Avenue. Brush and other yard waste can also be taken to the transfer station. There is no cost.

The transfer station is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Additional announcements will be posted on the city's website and on its Facebook page.

For more information, contact Otsego City Hall at (269) 692-3391.

Plainwell set to discuss sale of mill property

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PLAINWELL — The City of Plainwell has been working with local business owner, David Steffen, for the past year and a half to find approximately one acre of land on M-89 for him to build a new building for his business, Plainwell Auto.

This was scheduled to be up for discussion at Monday's council meeting.

MEDC financed architects to design a site plan and the building exterior, with the goal of creating a design that fits into the overall aesthetic of the complex and could be used by another party in the future. That design work is now complete.

The new site is located on land that has a commercial designation from the EPA, meaning it cannot be used for anything other than commercial purposes, and is satisfactory to the other parties working on developments on the mill property.

Plainwell holds Veterans Day event at Sherwood Park

VFW Post 9377 held its annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Sherwood Park on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

The ceremony began at 11 a.m. and was hosted by VFW 9377 commander John Roggow, who reminded those in attendance of the importance of checking in on the wellbeing of veterans they know. (Photos by Jason Wesseldyk)

B SECTION
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Redemption Tour rolls on:

Clippers upend Climax-Scotts 36-20, advance to state semifinals

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—The Redemption Tour rolled on for the Martin football team.

The Clippers, ranked first in 8-Player Division 1, bested No. 10 Climax-Scotts 36-20 on Friday, Nov. 7, to win a regional championship and advance to the state semifinals for the third time in four years.

Last season, Martin (11-0) lost a heartbreaker to Mendon in the regional finals as time expired to end its streak of two straight state championships.

Hence the Redemption Tour.

"The way last season ended, losing in the final seconds and get bounced, left a bad taste in our mouths," Martin coach Brad Blauvelt said "So our goal since then has been to get back to the state finals and win another championship.

"These seniors have really taken that to heart and they've dubbed this season the Redemption Tour, which I love. That's what it's all about."

But simply winning a state championship isn't the only goal for this group.

"They think they can be the best Martin team ever," Blauvelt said. "That's their goal, to establish this team as the best in the history of Martin football. Hopefully we can prove that in the next couple weeks."

Haylen Buell is one of the senior leaders for the Clippers.

"This win means a ton," Buell said. "It means we're back. We took that tough loss against Mendon last year, so we want this really bad and we just have to keep playing hard. Play fast, play physical. That's what we're known for. That's our brand of football. If we stick to that, we're tough to beat.

"And we have such good speed at the skill position and our linemen are huge. We're big up front and those guys do their job every single game. That's the only reason we succeed."

That speed and solid play by the linemen were on full display on Martin's first play from scrimmage.

Set up at their own 34-yard line, Buell took the snap and handed off to junior Seth Toris. The result was a 66-yard touchdown that, coupled with a successful conversion run, gave the Clippers a quick lead and the momentum.

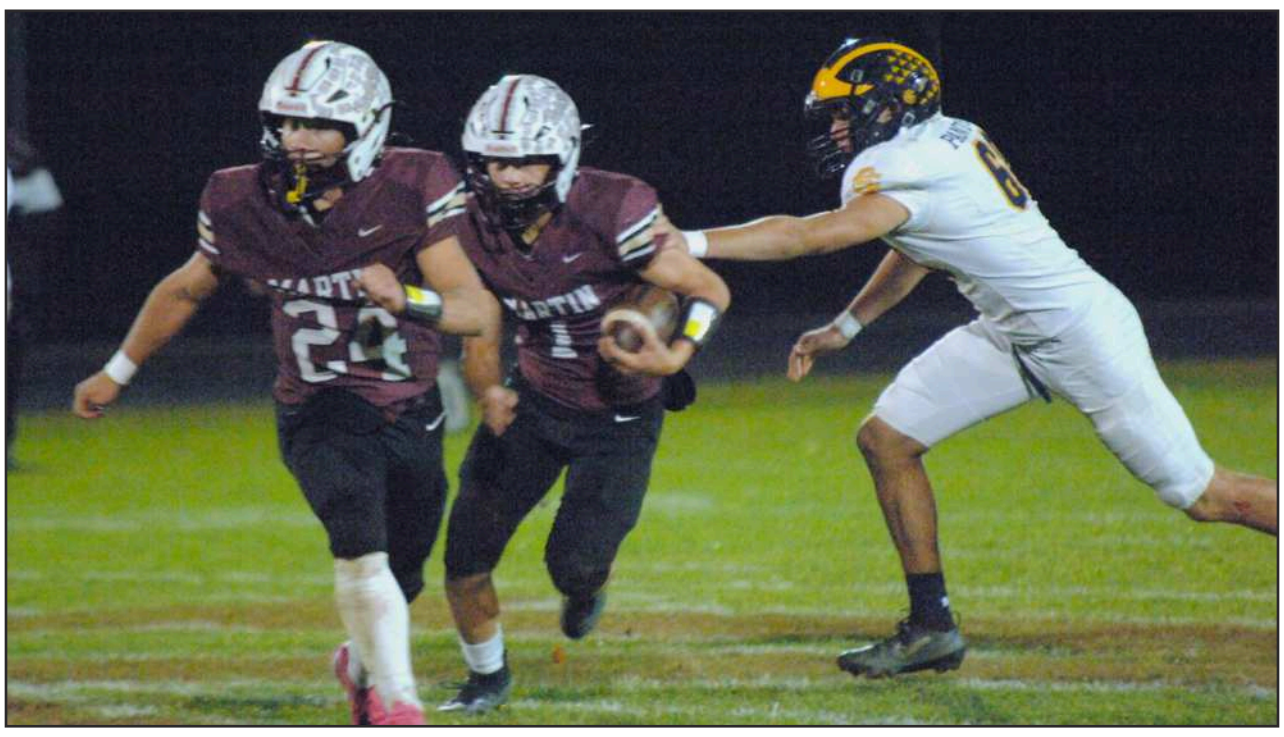
"It was great," Buell said. "That's one way to get the early-game jitters out. We see an opening in the backfield and we hit it and our dudes up front do their jobs."

Blauvelt knew how big that play was for the emotional tone of the game.

"We always preach about the importance of getting off to a fast start, so that first touchdown kind of let us take a deep breath and settle in," he said. "From there, we went to work."

Get to work they did.

Buell and Toris combined for more than 360 rushing yards on just 22 carries. Buell led the way with 184 yards and two touchdowns on 11 carries, while Toris was close behind with 178 yards and two TDs on 11 carries.



Martin running back Seth Toris (24) blocks for quarterback Haylen Buell (1) during the win over Climax-Scotts. Toris and Buell both ran for two touchdowns in the game. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Buell also teamed with his younger brother, freshman Zaiden, to impose their will on the defensive side of the ball.

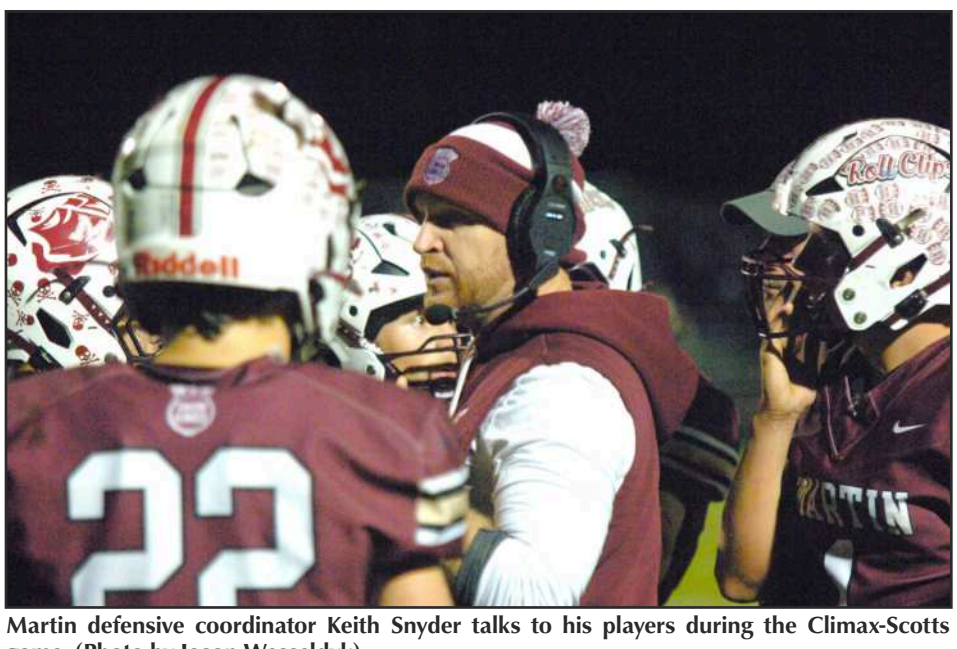
Haylen Buell racked up a team-best 18 tackles, with Zaiden Buell just one behind at 17. Zaiden Buell also had a crucial interception.

"The Buell brothers absolutely dominated the defensive side of the football," Buell said.

Weson Elkins added 11 tackles and Toris had 10 to give Martin four players with double-digit tackles.

Perhaps the biggest defensive stand came at the close of the second quarter.

■ see **Martin football**, Page B2



Martin defensive coordinator Keith Snyder talks to his players during the Climax-Scotts game. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Plainwell swim & dive finishes second at league finals

Otsego's Millie Shattuck won the SCC dive title, beating out the defending Division 2 state champ. (Photo by Tim Beason)

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BATTLE CREEK—Host Harper Creek ran away—or, more accurately, swam away—with the SCC title on Saturday, Nov. 8, racking up 527 points.

But the three local girls swim & dive teams—Plainwell, Otsego and Allegan—had plenty to celebrate as well.

The Trojans finished runner-up with 318 points, edging out Sturgis by seven points and Marshall by 17 points. The Bulldogs were sixth with 277 points, while the Tigers were seventh with 165 points.

All three area teams had one event champion, with Otsego's perhaps the most unlikely of the group.

Bulldog senior Millie Shattuck put on a clinic during the diving competition, earning 389.6 points. That was 7.8 points ahead of runner-up Aubrey Yarger of Hastings, who just so happens to be the defending Division 2 state champion.

"I couldn't be happier with how the girls performed this past weekend," Otsego coach Darryl Belton said. "I don't know if we've ever swam and dove that well in a girls league championship.

"Millie winning the diving was the upset of the week. She beat the defending D2 state champion and did it by being consistently great in all 11 dives."

Otsego teammate Hailey Montgomery was third in diving with 292.75 points.

"Neither of our divers had a bad dive," Belton said.

Plainwell's event championship came from Sophia VanHeest, who took top honors in the 100-yard backstroke at 1:02.05. She was took second in the 500 freestyle at 5:27.32.

For Allegan, Eliza DeLeat won the 50 free at 25.5 and was runner-up in the 100 butterfly at 1:03.61.

"Our girls showed tremendous progress throughout the season, with most swimmers achieving season or lifetime best times at the championship meet," Allegan coach Carol Gephart said. "The team's energy, encouragement and unity on deck were clear contributors to their success.

"The girls really came together and supported each other every step of the way. Their commitment and growth over the season were remarkable, and Eliza was a big part of that."

Other individual-event highlights for Otsego came from Hope Stender and Belle Xenos, with both securing second-place finishes.

Stender was second in the 200 free at 2:02.23 and third in the 500 free at 5:34.16. Xenos, meanwhile, took second in the 50 free at 26.21 and was fourth in the 100 free at 57.32.

"Stender broke the team record in the 200 and then swam out of her mind in the 500," Belton said. "Bella, Alyssa Long, Aubrey Smith and Laney Sweet finished in the top eight in their individual events joining Millie, Hailey and Hope on the All-Conference team."

And it wasn't just the girls who earned All-Conference who impressed Belton.

"My newbies blew up," he said. "Kylee Worden made it to the finals in both of her individual events (50 and 100 free) and she just learned how to do this in August. Lydia Griffith held the B medley relay together with a great breaststroke leg and Morgan Gruber was so fast in all three of her relays.

"Halle Olweean finished in the top 16 in the 50 and Juni Sisson dropped over 20 seconds of time in BOTH of her events. And I can't say enough about the job Karis Slater did on Saturday-her freestyle was lights out.

"I am excited for the state meet and the girls who will be competing there, but it is going to take a bit to come down off of this."

For Plainwell, Olaia Dominguez-Trincado had strong showings in the 100 fly (third at 1:04.56) and the 200 IM (fourth at 2:25.06).

■ see **Swim,** Page B3

Members of the Plainwell girls swim & dive team show off their runner-up trophy from the SCC Finals. (Photo provided)

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ATHLETE of the WEEK

Seth Toris
Martin
Football

In Martin's 8-Player Division 1 regional title game against Climax-Scotts on Friday, Nov. 7, junior Seth Toris made his presence felt in a big way.

On the Clippers' first play from scrimmage, Toris raced 66 yards for a touchdown, setting the tone for a 36-20 win.

Toris finished with 178 rushing yards and two touchdowns in the victory.

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Clippers claim fifth district crown in past six years

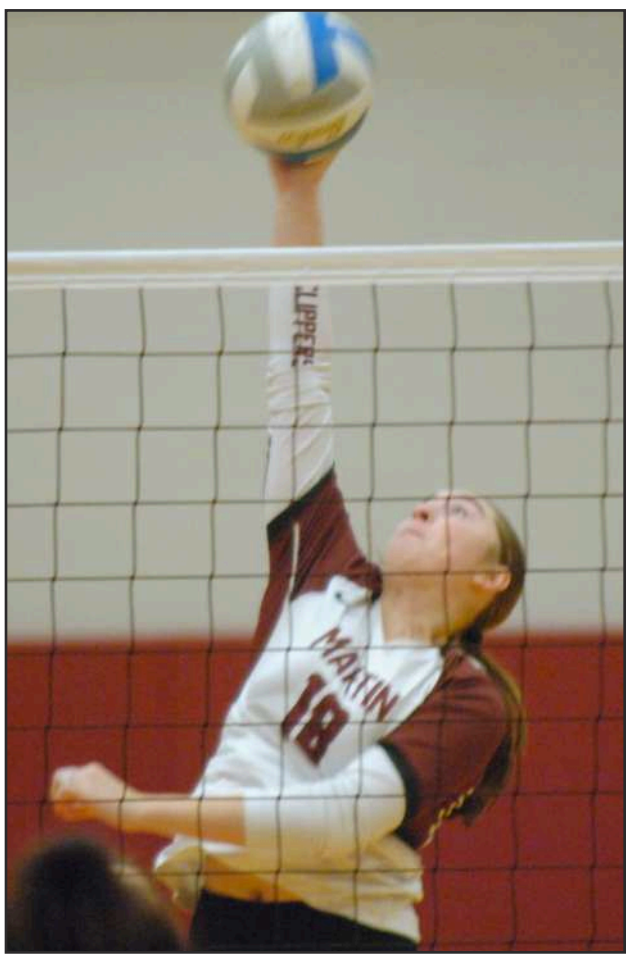
By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—As a senior at Martin High School in 1999, Shannon Goddard helped the volleyball team secure the first district championship in the history of the program.

Twenty-six years later, she led Martin volleyball to another district crown … this time as the head coach.

Goddard—in her first season as varsity coach for the Clippers after several years at the sub-varsity level—guided Martin to a dominant 3-0 win over Watervliet Grace Christian in a Division 4 district final on Thursday, Nov. 6.

The Clippers, who advanced to the district title game thanks to a 3-0 win over Lawrence in a semifinal clash on Tuesday, Nov. 4, held a 150-75 scoring edge in its two district matches.



Milee Schwartz goes up for a kill attempt in Martin's district win over Lawrence. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

"This district championship means so much to these girls," Goddard said. "They've worked hard since summer to be where they are now."

The title also means a lot to Goddard personally.

This is the sixth district title overall for Martin volleyball, with five of those coming in the past six years. Goddard has a connection to all of those championships.

In addition to being on the team in 1999, she has had a daughter on the team—first Makala and now Kendra—for each of the other five.

"This trophy is so important to me," Goddard said. "I've been coaching for a while as sub-varsity, so this title solidified to me I'm in the right place. It shows me these girls trust me and are embracing all the new changes we've made throughout the program.

"The importance of family and a close-knit community is so important in Martin. I am privileged to be a part of it."

In the district final, Martin prevailed by a score of 25-22, 25-16, 25-13.

It was a much tougher challenge than in the semifinals, when the Clippers didn't allow Lawrence to score double digit points in any set and rolled to the 25-9, 25-6, 25-9 victory.

"We knew the championship match would be more of a challenge for us," Goddard said. "But we also knew we could put together some really good volleyball."

The Clippers started a little bit slower than Goddard would have liked.

"The girls let their nerves get to them a little bit in the first set," she said. "We played very timid and not in control."

The rest of the match was a different story.

"I think after that set we started to play free and took the next two sets easier," Goddard said.

Torryn Harris racked up 30 assists in the victory, with Maggie Jager leading the offense with nine kills. Mackenzie Schwartz was two behind with seven kills, and Kylie Myers had six.

Kendra Goddard led in both digs (19) and aces (three). Schwartz added 13 digs, followed by nine from Marybeth Ritchie and seven from Anna Jager.

Schwartz and Maggie Jager also had two aces each.

The semifinal against Lawrence, as one might guess by looking at the final score, was all Clippers.

"I am really proud of how the girls kept their composure against Lawrence," Goddard said. "The pace was slower than we are used to, but they stayed motivated through the entire match.

"We stayed aggressive serving and attacking, while staying focused on defense."

Kendra Goddard led the defensive effort with 15 digs to go with a match-best seven aces. Schwartz had 11 kills and Harris had 19 assists.

Ritchie added five aces, Anna Jager went for four digs and three aces, and Maggie Jager chipped in with three aces and three digs.

Martin junior Mackenzie Schwartz makes a play at the net for the Clippers. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

All in all, it was a good week for the Clippers and re-enforced to the players that the program is in a good place, according to Coach Goddard.

"This shows them that this program is still on the rise and looking to continue being successful for years to come," she said. "We've graduated a lot of really good players over the last few years, but these girls we have now aren't afraid to step up and fill those roles."

Martin football ■ from Page B1

With Martin enjoying a 22-8 lead, the Panthers put together a drive into the red zone that was aided by a pass interference call.

But the Clippers kept Climax-Scotts out of the end zone to maintain their two-touchdown lead heading to halftime.

"The stop at the end of the first half was huge," Blauvelt said. "We had the pass interference call go against us, which wasn't good, but the defense stepped up and kept them from scoring and that really made us feel comfortable going into the second half.

In the second half, Haylen Buell scored on a 34-yard run with 6:47 left in the third quarter and Toris scored on a 9-yard run with 5:58 remaining in the game.

"Climax-Scotts is a tough team," Blauvelt said. "They're tough and physical and very big. They're big. But it's really about mutual respect and we want to beat each other, which is the way it should be. We were able to do it on the field, and that feels good.

In the state semifinals, Martin will face No. 5 Kingston, a 32-8 winner over unranked Capac in its regional title game.

The contest is slated for Saturday, Nov. 15, at Chelsea High School. Kickoff is slated for 1 p.m.

The winner of that game will face either No. 2 Blanchard Montabella or No. 3 Norway for the state championship on Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Northern Michigan University Superior Dome in Marquette. That game will start at 11 a.m.

The Martin football team defeated Climax-Scotts 36-20 in an 8-Player Division 1 regional final to stay unbeaten and, more importantly, keep the hope alive for another state title. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

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Holley thrives on soccer field for Saugatuck

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—As a sophomore last season, Saugatuck soccer standout Dante Holley received Second Team All-State recognition.

As a junior, he wanted more.

"I know being Second Team All-State is an honor, but it's never fun to feel like you are the second-place finisher," Holley said. "So over the summer I worked as hard as possible to not be the second best. I am a very competitive guy, so I wanted First Team."

And First Team All-State he got, thanks to season that saw him score 37 goals and assist on 14 others.

Holley now has 87 goals and 36 assists in his career, making him the school record holder in both categories. He also holds the record for goals in a season with the 38 he scored last year.

Holley's dad Nate had a front-row seat for his son's exploits this season, as he served as Saugatuck's varsity coach for the first time after coaching the district's middle school teams in the past.

"Dante is a cool and collected player," Nate Holley said. "I've always thought his decision making is his strongest suit. While he has a clear penchant for scoring goals, some of his best play comes from seeing the rest of the field.

"He's had some jaw-dropping passes in his high school career. I always find it so refreshing that a kid who has so many goals is also so willing to make the correct pass. He's a student of the game, and it shows."

And while Dante Holley obviously wants to play his best, his focus is as much on the team as it is himself.

"I think my leadership is one of my best traits on the field," he said. "I really enjoy trying to elicit greatness in others, as in seeing someone who usually doesn't play get in the game, or someone who doesn't score a lot getting a goal.

"I have been a captain for two years now and I think I have grown as a leader over the past two years."

Nate Holley also noted his son's evolution as a leader.

"First and foremost, Dante is all about dedication," Nate Holley said. "He sets up offseason trainings with the rest of the team. He does his best to make sure everyone shows up as much as they can. He demands high effort in training and promotes that by always training at a level that the rest of the team can see and emulate.

"He's got a big heart, and when someone is struggling or not getting the minutes they want, he's there to be a friend. It would be so easy to just be the stud on the team that everyone has to follow, but he ensures everyone feels included.

"If I had to design a star player who still got the best out of teammates, I'd be hard-pressed to design one much different than Dante."

Holley's introduction to soccer came a four years old.

Despite his current high level of play in the sport, he wasn't necessarily a "nature" in those early years, he said.

"I wasn't that great when I started, but got better as I started taking it more seriously," he said. "My dad was a huge factor in my development as a soccer player and I started developing at a way higher rate when me and him started playing more."

Making Dante Holley's accomplishments the past few years even more impressive is the fact that he's been pulling double duty when it comes to sports during the fall season.

After some prodding from coaches and other classmates, he joined the football program as a kicker last season. After a year on the JV squad, he was moved to varsity this year and took over the primary kicking duties from the graduated Cam Lewis, who also starred in both soccer and football.

Dante Holley was All-Conference on the gridiron.

"It was very fun to be a dual sport athlete and to try something new," Dante Holley said. "It is tiring going from football to soccer practice and being expected to perform at a high standard in both, but it is good to keep me busy, and I am glad to make more memories with both teams."

Nate Holley admitted to have some mixed feelings about football.

Because while he enjoyed watching his son try something new, it was a nerve-racking experience as a parent.

"Football was hard for me," Coach Holley said. "Don't get me wrong, I'm super proud of what he's achieved in football. But kicker is such an individual position, almost like you have to let your kid jump into the water and hope they can swim.

"Once he's out there to kick the football, no amount of coaching or parenting can help in that moment. That loss of control was definitely a hurdle for my mental state in games. But as always, Dante has shown me he's more courageous than I ever was at that age.

"One of (Dante's mom) Birdie's and my main goals is that our kids take chances on themselves, be brave, face fears. Just him doing that was the win, and him doing well was the icing on the cake."

Dante Holley hopes to put the icing on the cake that is his prep soccer career next fall as a senior.

"My biggest goal is to win a district title with Saugatuck next year," he said. "I made a promise when I came into this program that I would help us win our first district title and I want to fulfill that promise."

After that, he wants to continue his playing career at the college level.

"Whether its' D1, D2 or D3 doesn't really matter to me," Dante Holley said. "It would obviously be great to play D1, but I just want to extend my playing of the sport I love at a higher level."

Saugatuck junior Dante Holley is seen controlling the ball in a game from this season. He was named First Team All-State for his season that included 37 goals and 14 assists. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

In addition to starring on the soccer field for Saugatuck, Dante Holley was also the kicker for the varsity football team. He earned All-Conference for his work on the gridiron. (Photo provided)

Big weekend for Hoffman

It was quite a weekend for Otsego senior cross country standout Emma Hoffman.

On Friday, Nov. 7, Hoffman officially received her trophy for earning Ms. Cross Country honors. She secured Ms. Cross Country by posting the fastest time for a senior girl in all four divisions at the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 2 State Finals on Saturday, Nov. 1.

Then on Saturday, Nov. 8, Hoffman competed in the Elite race for the MITCA Meet of Champions and took first place with a time of 16:45. (Photos provided)

Swim ■

from Page B1

Teammate Sylar Luckett was runner-up in the 100 free (56.51) after placing sixth in the 200 free (2:07.25).

Allegan's Annabell Roden was fourth in diving with 282.0 points.

In the relays, Otsego had a pair of top-three showings: the 400 free team of Xenos, Aubrey Smith, Laney Sweet and Stender was second (3:58.92) and the 200 medley team of Smith, Xenos, Sweet and Stender was third (1:59.35).

Plainwell's 200 free relay team of Luckett, Brecken DeHaan, Ellah Anderson and Dominguez-Trincado was second at 1:47.74.

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Local students win Lions International Peace Poster contest

Local students win Lions International Peace Poster contest

Posters drawn by two 11 year old middle school students have won a local competition sponsored by the Martin Lions Club. Otsego Middle School sixth-grader Hazel Knooihuizen and Martin Public School sixth-grader Delaney Fisher has taken the first step to becoming an internationally recognized artist.

Hazel and Delaney's posters were among more than 450,000 entries submitted worldwide in the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs International is sponsoring the program to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere. The contest is open only to 11-13 years olds with the theme based on peace

The posters were selected in October by Lions members, teaching staff and art teachers Deanne Basse from Otsego and Nicolle Richards from Martin based on originality, artistic merit and portrayal of the contest theme "Together as One".

Hazel and Delaney's posters will advance through the district, multiple district and international levels of competition if to be declared the international grand prize winner. One international grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners will be selected. The grand prize winner includes a cash award of US$5,000 plus a trip for the winner and two family members to the 2026 International Convention in Hong Kong. The 23 merit award winners will each receive a certificate and a cash award of US$500.

Locally Hazel and Delaney will receive $50.00 from the Martin Lions Club and honored for their participation at their schools awards ceremony at the end of their school term.

Kids Books for Thanksgiving

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Thank you.

Two words that you've know how to say almost since you were able to talk. Two words you hear a lot, and say even more. So what are you thankful for this year? Check out these new books and start making your list…

Who will be around your Thanksgiving table this year? Mom and Dad, brothers and sisters, Grandparents and, in most families, you can count a few friends – just like in "Happy Friendsgiving: A Thanksgiving Celebration of Found Families" by Marcie Colleen and Laura Sandoval Herrera (Doubleday, $18.99). Gathering together; that's what friends do. They cook and eat and share and clean up, and then share some more. Kids ages 4-to-7 will enjoy having someone read this book to them, just before they sit down to eat.

And what will be on the table on Thanksgiving day? In "Family Feast!" by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison (Crown, $18.99), the fare is more than fair: Big Ma and Pops have been up since dawn making the meal. Cousins arrive, adults bring their favorite dishes, and you can imagine how good it all smells. But what's the very best thing at the Thanksgiving table every year? Your 4-to-7-year-old will love finding out with this adorable, family-oriented book.

No doubt, you've heard a lot of people complaining about a lot of things. But "America Gives Thanks" by Thai My Phoung (Penguin Workshop, $19.99), your eyes will become open to something that may make you think.

Everybody's excited about a class trip to Washington, D.C., but many of the kids on the bus are complaining about this and that. America, the narrator of this story, can't understand why that's so. Her classmates can sing at the Lincoln Memorial; Marian Anderson had to fight to do that. Ruth Bader Ginsburg worked hard for people's rights. Franklin Roosevelt tried to make sure that everyone had enough resources to live. Senator Claiborne Pell ensured that generations of young people could go to college. Complaining isn't always good, but it's not a bad thing, either, if we all do it together. This is a great book for kids ages 7-to-11, and a good reminder for adults, too.

And finally, it's fall, y'all, and that might mean a colorful skyline with yellow, orange, and brown leaves. In "Leaf Town Forever" by Kathleen Rooney and Beth Rooney, illustrated by Betsy Bowen (University of Minnesota Press, $17.95), three friends take fallen leaves and they do something creative with them. Sadly, the leaves don't stick around. Instead, they do something wonderful, something that's great for the animals and the land, something that 3-to-6-year-olds will find magical.

If these books aren't enough for the youngest Thanksgiving lover in your house, then head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask for more. They'll have the right books for small readers, teen readers, and the adult who needs a reminder that the first part in "Thanksgiving" is the most important one. Your librarian or bookseller will know what you want. And thank you!

All the books the Bookworm reviews here are available at the sponsor of this column:

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Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

Amazon, UPS, and several other major corporations recently announced layoffs of thousands of employees who are being replaced by Artificial Intelligence or AI. Are you concerned about your job?

-Man at a farmer's market on M-89: Laughs and tries to imitate President Trump, "Nope. See, it's like this. I'm retired, and no machine can do retirement better than me. I have this beautiful pension. It's beautiful. Better than you can imagine, and that means I can do retirement better than anyone else. You think about it and you'll agree."

-Man, same location: "You know how we used to boast, 'I have a guy for that?' Now, it's more like I got a machine for that. I'm retired, but I worry about my grandkids not having a job or having to work for a machine."

-Woman in front of the hardware store in Fennville: "I don't know. I guess I should be, but I got more than a computer to worry about right now."

-Older couple in front of the Fennville grocery store. Man: "They've had AI in here for a year or more. Those barcode scanners. They got two of them and got less employees. It's everywhere. I told them what I thought of it, but they don't care. It's all about money anymore, and customer service can go to you-know-where. It's not just here. It's everywhere." Woman: "That's why I don't go to the big stores in Holland. They get rid of the help to save money. It's just not right!"

-Young man near the Allegan Public Library: "Meh. It's no big deal. The world changes and you got to keep up."

-Woman near the Old Jail Museum. "Back when this place was built people traveled by steam train and horse and buggy. Steam trains got replaced by new technology and then got replaced by planes. If it wasn't for computers we'd be back to the old days."

-Man with her: "My ten-year-old Buick has more computer stuff in it than the first spaceship to the moon and back. That's the way things go."

Murder at the County Fair provides scholarships

By Gari Voss

The Allegan Public Educational Foundation organized wonderful evenings of mystery, food, and fun on November 7 & 8, 2025. With the assistance of playwright Emma Brookhouse and director Mary Kasprzyk, Murder at the County Fair drew in the audience to solve a who-dun-it.

As diners arrived, they were able to visit with friends and get their first look at the Pie Contest contestants who were about to compete in an unforgettable fair event. After appetizers, Act I introduced the characters who would be involved in the Pie Contest at the County Fair. It was obvious that there was bad blood between several of the contestants. Dottie Dunning expected to win, Gertie June was determined to knock Dottie off her throne, Mabel Tiller felt she had a great shot at the blue ribbon, Buck Harper believed that his unique savory pie would tickle the judge's taste buds, and newcomer Josie Carter had a difficult time understanding the animosity. Carl Crenshaw and Henry Puckett struggled to keep the lid on the classic event when Judge Roy Kincade and his current girlfriend Midge Tiller arrived. More than one of those present had a motive to bring pompous Kincade into line.

Front: Mason Haas, Bill Darnell. Seated: Sarah Schulz, Stephanie Fowler, Cheryl Piippo, Jordan Brookhouse, Anna Augustine, Maggie Darnell. Standing: Jim Augustine.

After a wonderful dinner provided by the Allegan Tech Center Culinary students, Act II began. During dinner, there had been an argument between Roy and Midge that drew the others to the parking lot. Once the actors reassembled, the pie tasting began only to end with Kincade collapsing, and the proclamation that he was truly dead.

The diners then dug into purchasing additional clues and sleuthing to discover who had murdered Kincade. The lead detective called everyone back together and reviewed the litany of clues that led to the true murder.

The Educational Foundation board and volunteers took time to thank all in attendance and the many sponsors who made this fundraiser so much fun while filling the foundation's coffers. The Foundation, that was established in 1988, will continue providing scholarships for seniors of Allegan High School plus mini-grants for Allegan Public Schools staff to purchase resources to enrich their classrooms. Donations can still be made by mailing a check to Allegan Public Schools, 550 5th St., Allegan, MI 49010 or calling (269) 673-5431.

Girls on the Boat opens Friday

Allegan High School Drama Department presents *The Girls on the Boat* on Friday, Nov. 14, and Sat., Nov. 15, 2025, at 7pm in the High School Performing Arts Center, 1560 M-40, Allegan. This is the real-life story of the young women who struggled to overcome prejudice at all odds in order to compete in the Olympics in a sport considered only for men, and the coach who encouraged them to excel. Tickets are available at the door.

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Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Nov. 13, 1950

First homecoming called big success: More than 200 alumni of Allegan High School joined with an equal number of present-day students Friday night to stage their first annual homecoming—and it was unanimously judged a big success.

The high school gym was packed for the homecoming dance followed the Grand Rapids Lee football game.

After attending the game, alumni thawed out in class meetings and gab fests. Seven classes requested rooms for reunions with the 1941 class having the best representation.

Ray Adams, representing the class of 1898, was believed to be the oldest grad present.

A highlight of the festivities was the crowning of Grace Jorgensen and Bob Kyes as king and queen of the event. Floyd Holland, representing the class of 1905, did the honors.

Plans for a repeat performance in 1951 were heartily endorsed by those attending.

Nov. 13, 1975

New twist in college district bill: More than 150 Alleganites invaded a meeting room at Kalamazoo Valley Community College last Friday to complain about a portion of a Senate bill that may not be a problem at all.

But while one problem may be eliminated, another may have surfaced.

Called Senate Bill No. 1080, the bill would assign all school districts in the state to community college districts. In Allegan's case, the district would join, under the bill's present wording, Southwestern Michigan Community College in Dowagiac.

That was the original problem, the one that inspired most of the Allegan residents to journey to the hearing, which was chaired by Sen. Gary Corbin, a Democrat from Clio. Also on the hearing panel were Sens. Gary Byker (R-Hudsonville) and John A. "Jack" Welborn (R-Kalamazoo).

Without exception, those from Allegan who spoke said they were opposed to the Southwestern Michigan district and preferred instead to join with KVCC.

Early in the hearing, Byker said, "I'm not too concerned about a boundary question. Internal adjustments are easy enough to make. We can add an amendment fairly easily which will change the bill's wording.

"Our biggest concern is whether or not residents of the Allegan Public Schools district are willing to pay another one and a half mills to belong to any community college district."

Mrs. Vickie Heckman testifies before the Senate committee that conducted a public hearing last Friday at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, a hearing attended by more than 150 Allegan school district residents, most of whom were opposed to a provision of a Senate bill which would assign Allegan to the Southwestern Michigan Community College district.

—News & Gazette photo

Nov. 16, 2000

Big defense aids Plainwell's championship season: It's an adage that's prominent throughout the world of athletics: defense wins championships.

But for the Plainwell boys soccer team, that wasn't simply an old saying. It was the definition of the season for the Trojans.

At Bloomfield Hills Andover on Saturday, Nov. 11, the Trojans used their stifling defense to shut down Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 2-0, and claim the Division 3 state title.

"We've just been solid all year," Plainwell senior goalie Rob Killick said. "Our defense got us into the state championship and here we stepped it up even more."

Trojan coach Garry Snyder agreed.

"This is unbelievable," Snyder said. "Our defense really came through for us again. It's just a great defensive unit that has been great all year."

That unit, which includes J.J. Jansons, Mark Killick and first-year starters Grant Bowen and Brandon Sparks, limited Notre Dame Prep to 15 shots on goal. Of those shots, none found their way past Rob Killick as he recorded his third consecutive shutout of the postseason and 14th overall for the season.

"It was great," Jansons said. "There's not much you can say other than that. We just played touch once again and got another shutout."

The Trojans celebrate their state championship by raising the trophy and number one sign indicating they are the best in the state in soccer. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Nov. 12, 2020

ACHD asks residents to do their part with pandemic: Over the past few weeks, the Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) has experienced an increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases being reported. Currently, an average of 65 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 each day have been reported to ACHD, compared to an average of four new confirmed cases each day that was reported to ACHD over the summer.

Our staff is working hard and even with our best efforts, we are not able to investigate everyone as quickly as we would like. The Allegan County Health Department is asking everyone to do their part in curbing this spike of COVID-19 cases in our community.

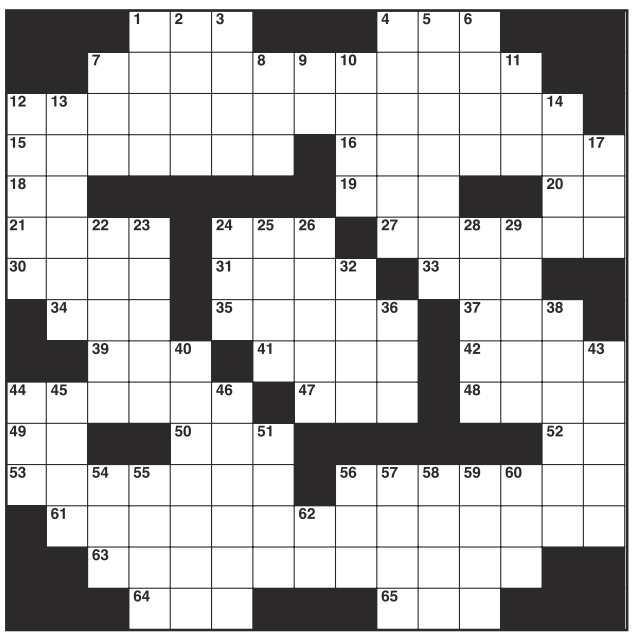
"This has been an incredibly long response and we are experiencing pandemic fatigue on some level. Now more than ever, we need our community to do practice the 3 W's—wash your hands, watch your distance, and wear a mask—and minimize in-person interactions within your social circle. With the rapid increase of new cases, we know community spread is occurring," states Allegan County Health Officer, Angelique Joynes, MPH, RN.

There may be a delay in contacting someone who tests positive for the virus or has been in close contact to someone who has COVID-19. If you receive a positive COVID-19 test result, isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the start of your symptom(s) or your positive test date if you didn't have symptoms.

Notify your close contacts that they may have been exposed and encourage them to quarantine for 14 days from their last date of contact with you. If you know you are a close contact, start self-quarantine.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Expression of surprise
4. Keyboard key
7. One who works on lights
12. Notable childrenÕs story
15. Fall back into a bad pattern
16. Eye parts
18. Atomic #18
19. Of she
20. Farm state
21. One point south of southeast
24. British media entity
27. Asian garment
30. Drench
31. Expressions of pleasure
33. Turf
34. UK trade union (abbr.)
35. Bleated
37. Fifth note of a major scale
39. Paddle
41. Monetary unit of Italy
42. American classical pianist
44. Shuts down for the day
47. Seize
48. Soluble ribonucleic acid
49. Greeting
50. Some cars still need it
52. Atomic #22
53. Let go
56. Marched in public
61. U.S. residents, Mexicans and Canadians
63. Hostilities
64. Speak aloud
65. River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN
1. Razorbill genus
2. Longtime Baltimore tight end
3. Performs on stage
4. Supports a sentiment
5. Rugged mountain ranges
6. Broadway songwriter Sammy
7. Snakelike fish
8. Men's fashion accessory
9. Hospital worker
10. Something to scratch
11. No (Scottish)
12. Volcanic ash
13. Of this
14. American jazz drummer Watts
17. Drop down
22. English dialect
23. Predatory seabirds
24. Imams' deputies
25. Fertility god
26. Fence material
28. Parks and DeLauro are two
29. Distinctive smell (Brit.)
32. Protein-rich liquids
36. Touch lightly
38. Season for Catholics
40. Boat race
43. Police actions
44. Chinese river
45. Waterfall (Scottish)
46. Walk ostentatiously
51. Type of carpet
54. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
55. Sea eagles
56. An enclosure for confining livestock
57. Dry
58. An increase in price or value
59. The highest point of something
60. Government lawyers
62. Larry and Curly's pal

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Deaths

Sept. 12, 2025
DOUGLAS JAMES WATKINS SR, 67, Plainwell

Oct., 24, 2025
WILLIAM DALE VANDERVELDEN, 88, Laketown Twp.

Oct. 25, 2025
KIMBERLY ANN WROBLESKI, 50, Lee Twp.
BELINDA KAY SHERMAN, 73, Douglas

Oct. 26, 2025
RITA NOWAK, 91, Casco Twp.

Oct. 27, 2025
JAMES IRVIN HARNISH, 84, Martin Twp.
SANDRA KAY MERCHANT, 65, Allegan

Oct. 28, 2025
DIANA LYNN HALL, 76, Plainwell
RONALD LEE THAXTON, 96, Otsego
CHARLES OSCAR HOOPER, 75, Lee Twp.
THOMAS EUGENE ZIEGLER, 73, Douglas
JAMES ROBERT VICKERY, 51, Otsego

Oct. 29, 2025
JOYCE ANN PARKER, 77, Dorr Twp.
KAY ANN BOLTHOUSE, 80, Dorr Twp.

Oct. 30, 2025
GARY LYNFORD ROYSTON, 74, Gun Plain
WADE J GREENAWALT, 80, Wayland
LYNDA LOU PETTY, 76, Saugatuck Twp.

Oct. 31, 2025
WILLIAM DEWEY WELCH, 64, Allegan

Nov. 2, 2025
DENNIS MERLIN LAFOUNTAIN, 65, Martin Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Oct. 28 and Nov. 5:

LAUREN JANNA VONK, Fennville, and **JACOB BRITTON BACHMAN**, Fennville
ANDREW PETER TAYLOR, Wayland, and **SYDNEY LANE GRABER**, FORT WAYNE, IN
MELISSA NICHOLE LEIGH FRANKLIN, Dorr, and **RYAN DAVID BENEDICT**, Dorr
AUSTEN VERN NAUSIEDA, Wayland, and **JESSECA RYAN ULFERTS**, Wayland
CHASE MICHAEL JAMES NEVINS, Martin, and **ALORA DANNI KATHLEEN BARBEAUX**, Martin
GERARD IGNATIUS MASLANKA, Fennville, and **MOLINE TUCKER MALLAMO**, Grandville
WILLIAM STEVEN MILLER, Allegan, and **KAYLA MARIE ALLEN**, Allegan
ARIEL RAIN BELLGRAPH, Wayland, and **AARON MICHAEL JAWORSKI**, Wayland
MARY ANN ERVAY, Allegan, and **ROBERT LEE GUTHRIE JR**, Allegan
ANGELIA RAY HERBERT, Allegan, and **JASON PAUL MANNON**, Allegan
CHRISTIAN SALVATORE MELONE, Hamilton, and **JULIA RENEE HOPKINS**, Hamilton
MICHAEL PAUL GREEN, Allegan, and **HEATHER LYNN HILLMAN**, Grand Junction
JENNIFER LYNN BAILEY, Allegan, and **JACOB LEE WAHLSTROM**, Allegan
CHARLES CHRISTIAN VERLEY, Holland, and **DESTINY LOVE CONDE**, Holland

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

			7	9			4	
				5	6			3
3		4				6		
8							1	
2	1		8					
			3	4		5		
		8				3		
	5				9	2		
		2					7	

(See Solution Page B7)

Public Notices

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Zachary Kragness, a single man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Nationstar Mortgage LLC

Date of Mortgage: July 3, 2017

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 11, 2017

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $192,003.38

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Fennville, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 20, Landsburg's Plat, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 26, Allegan County Records

Common street address (if any): 5667 Landsburg Rd, Fennville, MI 49408-9479

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: October 23, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1575275

(10-23)(11-13)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Jack Cafretsas and Megan Cafretsas, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union

Date of Mortgage: February 7, 2023

Date of Mortgage Recording: February 14, 2023

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $169,589.16

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: That part of Section 29, Town 1 North, Range 11 West, Gun Plain Township, Allegan County,

Michigan, described as: Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Section; thence South 89 degrees 29 minutes 38 seconds West on the South Section line, 1676.73 feet to the Centerline of Riverview Drive, thence North 35 degrees 52 minutes 52 seconds West on said Centerline 530.82 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence continuing North 35 degrees 52 minutes 52 seconds West on said centerline 109.43 feet; thence South 54 degrees 07 minutes 08 seconds West at right angles to said centerline 322.00 feet; thence South 35 degrees 52 minutes 52 second East, parallel with said Centerline 109.37 feet; thence North 54 degrees 07 minutes 46 seconds East 322.01 feet to the Point of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 874 Riverview Dr, Plainwell, MI 49080-1822

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: October 23, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1575312

(10-23)(11-13)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 04, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Jason Fein, unmarried man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: June 23, 2020 Recorded on July 7, 2020, Liber 4480, on Page 852, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifteen and 52/100 Dollars ($125,915.52) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: Part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 1, Town 4 North, Range 13 West, Salem Township, Allegan County, Michigan described as: Beginning distant South 01 degree 28 minutes 04 seconds East 823.26 feet along the North-South 1/4 line of said Section from the North 1/4 corner of said Section; thence continuing South 01 degree 28 minutes 04 seconds East 300.00 feet along said North-South 1/4 line to the South line of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section; thence South 88 degrees 27 minutes 56 seconds West 290.40 feet along said South line; thence North 01 degree 28 minutes 04 seconds West 300.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 27 minutes 56 seconds East 290.40 feet to the North-South 1/4 line of said Section and the Point of Beginning. Commonly known as 4774 25th St, Dorr, MI 49323 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1575669

(10-23)(11-13)

NOTICE TO CREDITOR'S TRUST ADMINISTRATION

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Settlor, DONALD R MARSTON, 8-28-1943 died 10-14-2025. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the [ONALD R MARSTON dated 10-27-2025, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented toIvan E Marston, Trustee, at 4156 AVON, DORR MI 49323 within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: 10-27-2025

IVAN E MARSTON

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Hernan Campos, a single man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Allied First Bank, SB DBA Servbank

Date of Mortgage: September 15, 2014

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 1, 2014

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $97,879.02

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Salem, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: The West 200 feet of the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 21, Town 4 North, Range 13 West, Allegan County, State of Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 3043 140th Ave, Dorr, MI 49323-9531

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: October 30, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1575807

(10-30)(11-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Tomas Brvenik and Anne L Oxendine, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union

Date of Mortgage: November 12, 2020

Date of Mortgage Recording: December 8, 2020

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $209,899.29

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Saugatuck, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 22, Town 3 North, Range 16 West, described as: Beginning at a point on the West line of said Section which is South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West

1130.35 feet from the Northwest corner of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West 154.05 feet; thence South 89 degrees 18 minutes 13 seconds East 198.00 feet along a line which is North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 25.00 feet from and parallel with the South line of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 154.05 feet; thence North 89 degrees 18-minutes 13 seconds West 198.00 feet to the point of beginning. Saugatuck Township, Allegan County, Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 2955 66th St, Fennville, MI 49408-9642

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: October 30, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1575854

(10-30)(11-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Hershel Baker and Sarah Baker, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a Subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B.

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): GITSIT Solutions, LLC, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of GV Trust 2025-1

Date of Mortgage: September 21, 2005

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 6, 2005

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $158,928.57

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Manlius, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 9, Retreat Subdivision, Manlius Township, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the plat thereof as recorded at Liber 6, Page 7, Allegan County Records.

Common street address (if any): 5386 Reveille Rd, Fennville, MI 49408-9590

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: October 30, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1575890

(10-30)(11-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Gregory J Giniel II, married man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Brighthouse Life Insurance Company

Date of Mortgage: October 17, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: November 1, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $1,237,730.85

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Casco, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot(s) 13, 14, 15 and 16, Block 5, Plat of Beverly Beach, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, Page 1

Common street address (if any): 7258 Beverly Dr, South Haven, MI 49090-8653

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: October 30, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1576020

(10-30)(11-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Mathew W Prins and Melissa Prins, Husband and Wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc.

Date of Mortgage: January 5, 2015

Date of Mortgage Recording: January 8, 2015

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $108,666.84

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Heath, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing At A Point On The West Line Of P.M. Railroad Right Of Way, 52 Rods And 13 Feet South From North Township Line, Thence West 13 Rods And 14 Feet; Thence North 6 Rods And 13 Feet; Thence East To West Line Of Said P.M. Railroad Right Of Way, Thence Southeasterly Along The West Line Of Said Railroad Right Of Way To Place Of Beginning, Being Part Of The Northwest 1/4 Of Section 6, Town 3 North, Range 14 West.

Also, Commencing 759 Feet South Of The North Section And Township Line And The Westerly Line Of P.M. Railway, Thence West To A Point 285 Feet West Of The North And South 1/4 Line Of Section 6, Town 3 North, Range 14 West, Thence North 33 Feet; Thence East To The Westerly Line Of Said Pere Marquette Railway Right Of Way; Thence Southeasterly Along Said Line To Place Of Beginning, All In The Northwest 1/4 Of Section 6, Town 3 North, Range 14 West. Subject To Driveway Easement Set Forth In Deed Recorded In Liber 407, Page 81.

Together With Grant Of Easement For Ingress And Egress As Recorded In Liber 981 On Page 173.

Common street address (if any): 3570 Trackside Dr, Hamilton, MI 49419-9029

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: October 30, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1576136

(10-30)(11-20)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 4, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Christopher Castro, an unmarried man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union

Date of Mortgage: March 8, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: March 10, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $282,698.18

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Wayland, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Unit 42 in the Wild Flower Ridge, according to the Master Deed thereof, as recorded in Liber 3364, Page 570, Allegan County Records, and any amendments thereto and designated as Allegan County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 284, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended

Common street address (if any): 835 Wild Flower Ct, Wayland, MI 49348-1480

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 6, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1576324

(11-06)(11-27)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. 25-65875-DA and JUDGE

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Mary Edna Pigeon Vanderwood Date of Birth:*XXX

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary Edna Pigeon Vanderwood, died 9-8-2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Mari Liz Comer, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

11-10-2025

Mari Liz Comer

6 Oakleaf Way

Palm Coast, FL 32137

904-322-3066

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by James W. Nelson Jr and Margaret F. Nelson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Nationstar Mortgage LLC, DBA Greenlight Loans, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated June 5, 2015, and recorded on June 16, 2015, in Liber 3936, Page 420, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 14, 2025 and recorded October 21, 2025 in Liber 5079, Page 338, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Ten and 64/100 ($65,510.64) including interest at the rate of 4.37500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Cooper, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing on the East line of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 5, Town 1 South, Range 11 West, 825 feet North of the Southeast Corner thereof; Thence West 1320 feet more or less parallel with the South line of the said Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter to the West line of the said Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter; Thence North on the said West line 165 feet; Thence East parallel with the first course 1320 feet more or less to the East line of the said Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter; Thence South on the said East line 165 feet to the place of beginning, excepting and reserving any portion on the East side thereof now used for, highway purposes. Commonly known as: 10433 NORTH 16TH STREET, PLAINWELL, MI 49080 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: November 13, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Nationstar Mortgage LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00749-1

(11-13)(12-04)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. 25-65912-DE and JUDGE Hon. Jolene Clearwater

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Dawn Kimberly Heisler Date of Birth:*12/08/1963

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Dawn Kimberly Heisler, died 10/06/2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Bryan Bowen, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

October 31, 2025

Gary E. Tibble P43886

5144 Gull Rd.

Kalamazoo, MI 49048

269-383-6000

Bryan Bowen

1951 N. Arbor Way Dr. Apt. 44

Canton, MI 48188

517-617-9876

STATE OF MICHIGAN

PROBATE COURT

ALLEGAN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. 25-65913-DE and JUDGE

Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Linda Lou Noyes, Deceased Date of Birth:*01-12-1941

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Linda Lou Noyes, died 10-6-2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Karen L. Fritz, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

11-4-2025

Christopher T. Antkoviak P59448

416 Hubbard Street

Allegan, MI 49010

(269)673-8468

Karen L. Fritz

906 110th Avenue

Plainwell, MI 49080

(269) 569-5563

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Richard G. Major Jr., A Single Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Ross Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated April 18, 2008, and recorded on April 22, 2008, in Liber 3225, Page 943, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was corrected by an Affidavit of Scrivener's Error dated September 2, 2025 and recorded September 3, 2025 in Liber 5064, Page 499, Allegan County Records, said Affidavit of Scrivener's Error was corrected by an Affidavit of Scrivener's Error dated September 22, 2025 and recorded September 23, 2025 in Liber 5070, Page 566, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 22, 2013 and recorded October 28, 2013 in Liber 3788, Page 758, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Twenty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Three and 37/100 ($22,743.37) including interest at the rate of 6.50000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of ALLEGAN, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: The East 5 Acres Of The East 10 Acres Of The Southeast 1/4, Northwest 1/4, Section 35, Town 2 North, Range 13 West, Township Of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan. Commonly known as: 2703 113TH AVENUE, ALLEGAN, MI 49010 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 12.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: November 13, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00603-1

(11-13)(12-04)

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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RELIGION SECTION

One of the advantages of the internet is our ability to connect and collaborate with others. For some time now, I have been having a dialogue with a fellow who had a rough childhood that led to a very sketchy early life. He was arrested and spent a few years in prison which, he now says, is the best thing that ever happened to him. That is because he had many weeks in solitary confinement that gave him the chance to think and reflect. As a result, he now has many good ideas to share with other, and has become something of a spiritual mentor.

Both of us agree that all good prayer begins with thanksgiving. Instead of rushing straight to our 'wish list' of petitions, we slow down and first thank God for all that has happened in our life. Then, we thank God by letting him know that he has brought us this far without 'dropping us off' and have trust in his continued mercy and grace.

We continue by thanking God for the wonderful heritage we have received. He wrote, "You thank God for your parents who did their best by you. You thank God for your ancestors who survived by perseverance and faith. You thank God for your teachers. You thank God for the old man or woman who said something kind to you when you were at your lowest. That's when you needed it the most."

Even if these people from our past were 'nobodies' in the eyes of the world, they set good examples for us. This is the true inheritance we received that is more valuable than anything else.

When I began using his ideas, one day I thought of my father talking with his friends about a young man who worked at the hardware next door. All of them agreed he was a "steady worker." He arrived early, went to work, never took more than his allotted break time, and left when the work was done, not when the clock said it was time to put down the tools. He was a true good man. They said those who words with admiration and respect.

The next day, I thought of my mother who spent hours at her sewing machine to make nice clothes for my sister. Mother had grown up in Oklahoma during the Great Depression, and she wanted to give my sister something she never had: New clothes, not hand-me-downs made out of patterned flour bag material. Good clothes were a tool for building self-esteem and confidence.

Their love, compassion, and hard work took on new meaning when I realized this was a godly inheritance.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd,
Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

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Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

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tedsab1@gmail.com

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Cheri Sleeman Schulz
Associate Broker, REALTOR
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430 Western Avenue, Allegan